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Page 16



**LEONARD NIMOY,
DR. SPOCK FROM
'STAR TREK' DEAD**
Page 29

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, February 28, 2015



Partial Shutdown?

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio walks to the House chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, for a procedural vote as Congress moves toward a spending bill for the Homeland Security Department hours before a shutdown was to begin.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

At Press Time:

US House rejects Homeland Security funding

**DAVID ESPO
ERICA WERNER
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives unexpectedly rejected short-term funding for the Department of Homeland Security on Friday, increas-

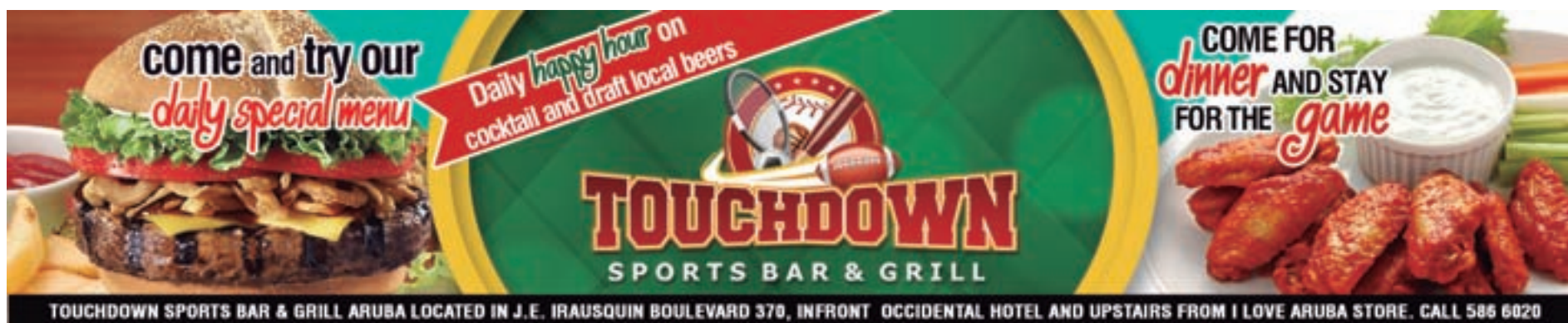
ing the prospect of a partial shutdown at midnight of an agency with major anti-terrorism responsibilities. The vote was 224-203 against the measure, as 52 Republicans defected on the legislation backed by their leaders.

A combination of conservative, tea party-backed Republicans on one side of the political aisle and Democrats on the other opposed the bill. The first group was upset because the legislation had been stripped of changes to President

Barack Obama's immigration policy, and the second because it lacked full-year funding for the sprawling department. Much of the Department of Homeland Security was to remain open however, even if funding expired at midnight.

Airport security checkpoints would remain staffed, immigration agents would be on the job, air marshals would do their work and Coast Guard patrols would sail on.

Continued on page 5



Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov shot dead

**LAURA MILLS
V. ISACHENKOV**
Associated Press

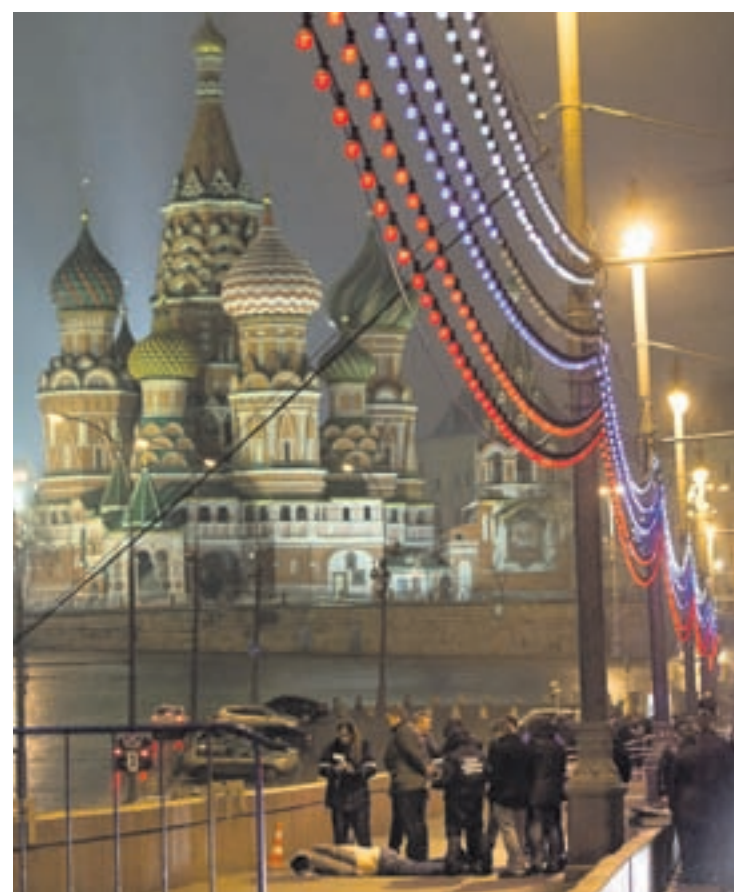
MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Nemtsov, a charismatic former deputy prime minister turned Russian opposition leader, was shot and killed in Moscow Saturday, officials said.

Nemtsov's death comes just a day before a planned protest against President Vladimir Putin's rule. The

Kremlin said that Putin will personally oversee the investigation. Nemtsov, who was 55, was a sharp critic of Putin, assailing the government's inefficiency, rampant corruption and the Kremlin's policy on Ukraine, which has strained Russia-West ties to a degree unseen since Cold War times. The Russian Interior Ministry, which oversees Russia's police force, said that

Nemtsov was shot four times from a passing car as he was walking a bridge just outside the Kremlin shortly after midnight.

Interior Ministry spokeswoman Yelena Alexeyeva told reporters on the scene that Nemtsov was walking with a female acquaintance, a Ukrainian citizen, when a vehicle drove up and unidentified assailants shot him dead. The woman



Russian police investigate the body of Boris Nemtsov, a former Russian deputy prime minister and opposition leader at Red Square with St. Basil Cathedral in the background in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015. Nemtsov, a sharp critic of President Vladimir Putin, was killed early Saturday. His death comes just a day before a major opposition rally in Moscow.

(AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin)

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wasn't hurt.

Opposition activist Ilya Yashin said on Ekho Moskvy radio that he last spoke with Nemtsov two days before the killing. Nemtsov was working on a report presenting evidence that he believed proved Russia's direct involvement in the separatist rebellion that erupted in eastern Ukraine last year.

Ukraine and the West have accused Russia of backing the rebels there with troops and weapons. Moscow has denied the accusations, but large numbers of sophisticated heavy weapons in the rebels' possession has strained the credibility of its denials.

Yashin said he had no doubt that Nemtsov's murder was politically motivated.

"Boris Nemtsov was a stark opposition leader who criticized the most important state officials in our country, including President Vladimir Putin. As we have seen, such criticism in Russia is dangerous for one's life," he said. Political analyst Stanislav Belkovsky told Ekho Moskvy radio station that he did not believe that Nemtsov's death would in any way serve Putin's interests. "But the atmosphere of hatred toward alternative thinkers that has formed over the past year, since the annexation of Crimea, may have played its role," Belkovsky said, referring to the surge of intense and officially endorsed nationalist discourse increasingly prevalent in Russia since it annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. □

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GOP contenders push for military action against ISIS

STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

OXON HILL, Maryland (AP)

— The Republican Party's leading presidential contenders on Friday promised conservative activists they would pursue aggressive military action to prevent the spread of global terrorism, including a renewed use of ground forces in the Middle East.

As war-weary critics in both parties watched with skepticism, one Republican White House prospect after another attacked President Barack Obama's foreign policy as far too timid as they courted thousands of conservative activists gathered in suburban Washington.

"Our position needs to be to re-engage with a strong military and a strong presence," former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush told the Conservative Political Action Conference. Bush added he liked the option of sending ground forces into the fight against the Islamic State group, particularly to conduct intelligence and special operations. "As we pull

back, voids are filled," Bush said.

the Republican race, with most of the party's White

ed jabs at the Democratic president, but they booed

to put American troops at risk after more than a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry described the Islamic State group as "the worst threat to freedom since communism," and he declined to rule out sending American ground forces in the region.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said the U.S. must "put together a coalition of armed forces from regional governments to confront them on the ground, with U.S. special operations support, and then provide logistical support, intelligence support and the most devastating air support possible." None of those who called for the use of U.S. ground forces against the Islamic State group specified whether they meant putting troops in the territory the militants control in Iraq, where the government has sought U.S. help, or in Syria. The U.S. has called for the ouster of Syrian President Bashar Assad and is conducting airstrikes in his country without his cooperation. □



Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in National Harbor, Md., Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Foreign policy was largely an afterthought in the last presidential election, but it has become a dominant theme in the early stages of

House prospects calling for a far more muscular foreign policy than under Obama. The large crowd at conference cheered the repeat-

at times when speakers called for ground troops to fight Islamic State militants — a reminder that many voters are reluctant

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8 shot to death, including gunman, in US rampage



Police tape surrounds one of the crime scenes in Tyrone, Mo., Friday, Feb. 27, 2015. Authorities say multiple people were shot to death and one was wounded in attacks in the small southeastern Missouri town, and the suspected gunman was found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. (AP Photo/Houston Herald, Jeff McNiell)

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

TYRONE, Missouri (AP) — A man who authorities say may have been unhinged by the death of his ailing mother went on a house-to-house shooting rampage in a small town in the state of Missouri, killing seven people before taking his own life.

Joseph Jesse Aldridge, 36, carried out the killings with a .45-caliber handgun Thursday night or early Friday at four homes in Tyrone, the no-stoplight town where he lived, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said.

Aldridge's body later was found before dawn Friday in a running pickup truck on the middle of a highway in a neighboring county. No suicide note was found, authorities said.

The patrol said four of the dead — two couples — were cousins of Aldridge's, ranging in age from 47 to 52. The names of three other victims and a person who was wounded but expected to survive were being withheld until relatives could be notified.

All the victims were adults and were gunned down within a few miles (kilometers) of one another.

Authorities said the motive remained unclear. But as the investigation unfolded, they found Aldridge's 74-year-old mother dead, apparently of natural causes, at the home she shared with her son, officials said.

She had been under a

doctor's care and appeared to have been dead at least 24 hours, Texas County Coroner Tom Whittaker told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Whittaker speculated that the son "came home and found her deceased and then for whatever reason went on a rampage and started killing people."

"This is a horrific tragedy, and our hearts go out to the victims of these senseless acts and their families," Gov. Jay Nixon said. He said crisis counseling will be made available to students and others.

The sheriff's office learned of the attack when it got a call about 10:15 p.m. Thursday from a young woman who said she had fled to a neighbor's home after hearing gunshots in her house, Kinder said.

The neighbor, who refused to give his name, told The Associated Press that the teenage girl was barefoot and clad only in a nightgown when she came running across a snow-covered field full of thickets that left her legs cut up.

"She was crying so hard, but I finally got out of her 'My mom and dad have been shot,'" the neighbor said.

When officers arrived at the girl's home, they found two people dead. Authorities later found five more people dead and one wounded in three other homes. The wounded person was taken to a hospital in undisclosed condition. □

Cops: Manslaughter charges for teen who encouraged pal to die

NEW BEDFORD, Massachusetts (AP) — A high school honor roll student accused of encouraging a friend to commit suicide has been charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Police and prosecutors say 18-year-old Michelle Carter texted back-and-forth with Conrad Roy III in the minutes before Roy killed himself in a store's parking lot. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poi-

soning.

She was 17 at the time of Roy's death in July but has been charged as a youthful offender. That means her case will be tried in juvenile court but is open and she could face punishment as an adult if convicted. She is free on bail. Her lawyer tells The Standard Times that Carter did not commit a crime and expects the charge to be dismissed. □

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At Press Time:

US House rejects Homeland Security funding

Continued from Front

Of the department's 230,000 employees, an estimated 200,000 would remain at work, either because they are deemed essential, or because their pay comes from fees that are unaffected by congressional spending disputes.

With a few hours remaining before the deadline, it was unclear what House Speaker John Boehner and other Republican leaders would next propose.

Democrats led by Rep. Nancy Pelosi urged them in advance to allow a vote on a bill to keep the department in funds through the Sept. 30 end of the budget year — a step the Republican high command had previously refused to take. "You have made a mess," Pelosi said to Republicans as debate neared an end on the measure.

That wasn't how tea party-backed rebels saw it.

"It does not make any difference whether the funding is for three weeks, three months or a full fiscal year. If it's illegal, it's illegal," said Rep. Mo Brooks, a Republican, referring to Obama's actions.

Other conservatives disagreed with that sort of analysis in large numbers — and said so.

"It's the best solution that we have available to us right now," said Rep. Steve Womack, a Republican.

"Nobody wants to shut down the Department of Homeland Security."

Across the Capitol, the Senate waited to add its

assent after playing out a series of acts in the Republicans' effort to use the measure to wring concessions on immigration from the White House.

A largely symbolic attempt to advance legislation that would repeal Obama's immigration directive of last fall failed on a vote of 57-42, three short of the 60 required in the 100-member chamber.

That separate budget proposal was "commonsense legislation that would protect our democracy from the egregious example of executive overreach we saw in November," said Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

McConnell had successfully led his rank and file in recent days to a decision to pass Homeland Security legislation without immigration-related provisions. Within a few hours of the vote, the department circulated a lengthy contingency plan.

The 46-page document indicated that more than 30,000 employees would face furloughs out of a total agency workforce of 225,000.

Much of the department was to remain open, at least temporarily. Airport security checkpoints would remain staffed, immigration agents would be on the job, air marshals would do their work and Coast Guard patrols would sail on.

And ironically, a federal court order has blocked implementation of Obama's immigration policies that most Republicans seek, at least temporarily. □



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. walks to the Senate chamber from his office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, 27, 2015, as Congress closed in on approving a short-term spending bill for the Homeland Security Department that would avert a partial agency shutdown hours before it was to begin. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)



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American Living:

For a Change, Downtowns Are Where the New Jobs Are

CLAIRE CAIN MILLER
 © 2015 New York Times

For decades, most Americans working in metropolitan areas have gone to work outside city centers - in suburban office parks, stores or plants, not downtown skyscrapers. But as people increasingly choose to live in cities instead of outside them, employers are following.

In recent years, employment in city centers has grown and employment in the surrounding suburban areas has shrunk, a striking change from the years before, according to a report published on Tuesday by City Observatory, a think tank.

The changes are small but represent an important shift in the American workforce. As recently as 2007, employment outside city centers was climbing much faster than inside.

Some cities - especially big ones hemmed in by water, like New York and San Francisco - have held onto a large share of employment near the city center. But now, urban job growth is increasing more quickly in those cities than before. And in other cities - including Chicago; New Orleans; Orlando, Florida; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Milwaukee - employment is growing in the urban core and declining in the suburbs.

We pay close attention to the number of jobs gained or lost. But the location of jobs is just as important - including for making deci-



Commuters pass by the Willis Tower in downtown Chicago. Chicago is one of numerous American cities where more people are choosing to live, and more businesses are choosing to move, downtown.

(Nathan Weber/The New York Times)

sions about employment, housing and transportation policies.

"How do you connect people to economic opportunity and the kinds of jobs that can give them secure footing and a path out of poverty?" said Elizabeth Kneebone, a fellow studying metropolitan policy at the Brookings Institution. "The first step is understanding where jobs are located, and can people afford to live where the good job growth is happening."

The jobs in the heart of cities tend to be highly skilled and high-paying ones, in industries like finance and tech. Working-class jobs, like retail or construction, are likelier to be suburban.

So with the recent growth of downtown jobs, the risk is that cities will continue to be havens for the wealthy, and inaccessible to the middle and working classes.

Most jobs are still outside city centers, the result of a retreat from America's cities that has been going on for decades. At the beginning of the 20th century, people lived and worked in high-density areas and walked where they needed to go. By the 1950s, most lived in suburbs and commuted to work in cities.

In the decades that followed, employers decamped to the suburbs, too. By 1996, only 16 percent of metro area jobs

were in a 3-mile radius of downtowns, according to the economists Edward Glaeser and Matthew Kahn.

The recession accelerated the recent decline in urban sprawl. Industries based outside cities, like construction and manufacturing, were hit much harder than urban ones like business services. Jobs disappeared everywhere, but more rapidly outside cities.

The data indicate that more lasting forces are at work. People increasingly desire to live, work, shop and play in the same place, and to commute shorter distances - particularly the young and educated, who are the most

coveted employees. So in many cities, both policymakers and employers have been trying to make living and working there more attractive.

Cities are also better able to hold on to jobs than they were before. "It means healthier cities," said Joe Cortright, who runs City Observatory and is president of Impresa, which does regional economic analysis. "If the urban core is economically weak or fiscally troubled, that creates a burden for a whole metropolitan area."

City Observatory analyzed a detailed subset of Census Bureau employment data to find what it sees as the beginning of a trend. It covered the 41 largest metropolitan areas for which the data was available, from 2002 to 2011.

Employment in city centers - the 3-mile radius around the central business district - climbed half a percent overall between 2007 and 2011, while employment in the surrounding metropolitan areas declined one-tenth of a percent. In the previous five years, employment in city centers had climbed just 0.1 percent while outside had it climbed 1.2 percent.

Some cities have not followed the trend, like Dallas and Houston, where employment outside the city is still growing faster. In others, like Jacksonville, Florida, and St. Louis, jobs have been declining in both locations, but more quickly outside urban centers. □

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US Financial Fornt:

America's economic growth in Q4 revised down to 2.2%

M. CRUTSINGER
Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy slowed more sharply in the final three months of the year than initial estimates, reflecting weaker business stockpiling and a bigger trade deficit. The Commerce Department said Friday that the economy as measured by the gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 2.2 percent in the October-December quarter, weaker than the 2.6 percent first estimated last month. It marked a major slowdown from the third quarter, which had been the strongest growth in 11 years. Economists, however, remain optimistic that the deceleration was temporary. Many forecast that growth will rise above 3 percent in 2015, which would give the country the strongest economic growth in a decade. They say the job market has healed enough to generate strong consumer spending going forward. The economy is "doing just fine," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, who noted that although GDP growth slowed in the fourth quarter, the U.S. added an average of 284,000 new jobs from October through December.

For all of 2014, the economy expanded 2.4 percent, up slightly from 2.2 percent growth in 2013.

Consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, was a bright spot in the fourth

quarter. It expanded at an annual rate of 4.2 percent, down slightly from the first estimate of 4.3 percent

2.1 percent in the first four years of the recovery." The downward revision stemmed largely from slow-

imports grew much more strongly than first thought. That could be a reflection of the rising value of the

Analysts are looking for less of a roller-coaster ride this year. JPMorgan economists say growth will come in around 2.5 percent in the current quarter and then hover between 2.5 percent to 3 percent for the rest of the year. They are forecasting growth of 3.1 percent for the entire year, a significant improvement from the 2.4 percent growth seen in 2014.

If the forecast proves accurate, it would be the best GDP performance since the economy grew by 3.3 percent in 2005, two years before the beginning of worst economic downturn the country has experienced since the 1930s.

Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisers, is even more optimistic. He's forecasting economic growth of 3.5 percent this year.

Naroff and other economists believe the key to the economy shifting into a higher gear will be further improvements in the labor market, when stronger job gains leading to rising wage gains.

"I see 2015 as a really good year for consumer spending because of the wage gains," Naroff said.

Even though the recession ended nearly six years ago, wage growth has been weak as businesses were able to pay less with so many unemployed looking for jobs.

Several large companies have already signaled a willingness to pay more to retain workers. □



In this photo, workers weld at a commercial construction site in Boston. The U.S. economy slowed more sharply in the final three months of the year than initial estimates, reflecting weaker business stockpiling and a bigger trade deficit.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

growth but still the best showing since the first quarter of 2006.

Friday's report was the second of three estimates for fourth quarter GDP, the broadest measure of the economy's total output of goods and services.


Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said that "while the economy ended the year with less momentum than in the summer and fall, average annual growth of 2.9 percent in the past six quarters still denotes a meaningful upward shift from

er stockpiling by businesses. Last month, the rise in inventories was estimated to have added 0.8 percentage points to fourth quarter growth. But that was lowered to a contribution of just 0.1 percentage point in the new estimate. The change, however, will likely translate into stronger growth in the current quarter because businesses will not have to work down an overhang of unsold goods. Trade also weighed more heavily on growth than first thought, subtracting 1.2 percentage points as

dollar, which makes imported products cheaper for U.S. consumers.

Many analysts believe 2015 will start slowly, in part reflecting the disruptions caused by a rough winter. However, it's unlikely to be as bad as the first quarter of 2014, when heavy snow and cold contributed to a 2.1 percent plunge in growth in the first quarter of 2014.

That big drop was followed by sizzling growth rates of 4.6 percent in the second quarter and 5 percent in the third quarter.




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Kurdish fighters rout IS militants from town near Iraq

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, Kurdish fighters fought their way Friday into a northeastern Syrian town that was a key stronghold of Islamic State militants, only days after the group abducted dozens of Christians in the volatile region, Syrian activists and Kurdish officials said.

The victory marks a second blow to the extremist IS group in a month, highlighting the growing role of Syria's Kurds as the most effective fighting force against the Islamic State. In January, Kurdish forces drove IS militants from the town of Kobani near the Turkish border after a

months-long fight, dealing a very public defeat to the extremists.

But it is also tempered by this week's horrific abductions by IS militants of more than 220 Christian Assyrians in the same area, along the fluid and fast shifting front line in Syria.

The town of Tel Hamees in Syria's northeastern Hasakeh province is strategically important because it links territory controlled by IS in Syria and Iraq.

The province, which borders Turkey and Iraq, is predominantly Kurdish but also has populations of Arabs and predominantly Christian Assyrians and Armenians.

"We are now combing the town for explosives and



Gunsmith Bahktiyar Sadr-Aldeen holds a weapon at his shop, in Irbil, northern Iraq. Sadr-Aldeen, an Iraqi Kurd, has seen his business shoot up by 50 percent since last June, when the Islamic State took over the Iraqi city of Mosul. The Kurdish fighting force known as the peshmerga has been at war against the Sunni extremists ever since, keeping Aldeen busy.

(AP Photo/Bram Janssen)



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remnants of terrorists," said Redur Khalil, a spokesman for the Kurdish fighters, known as the People's Protection Units or YPG.

Speaking to The Associated Press over the phone from the outskirts of Tel Hamees, he said the town was a key stronghold for IS and had served as a staging ground for the group's operations in the Iraqi town of Sinjar and the city of Mosul.

Dislodging the group from Tel Hamees cuts a supply line from Iraq, Khalil said.

The push on the town's eastern and southeastern edges came after the Kurdish troops, working with Christian militias and Arab tribal fighters, seized dozens of nearby villages from the Islamic State extremists. U.S.-led coalition forces provided cover, striking at IS infrastructure in the region for days.

More than 200 militants died in the fighting, and at least eight troops fighting

alongside YPG, including an Australian national who has been with the Kurdish forces for three months, Khalil said.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists inside Syria, said IS defenses collapsed and the militants fled after Kurdish fighters broke into Tel Hamees from the east and south.

The Observatory's director, Rami Abdurrahman, said the Kurds seized more than 100 villages around Tel Hamees and that ground battles and air strikes around the town have killed at least 175 IS fighters in the past several days in some of the latest losses for the group since Kobani.

Some 15,000 villagers have fled the fighting, he added.

The Kurds in Syria and Iraq have emerged as the most effective force fighting IS, which controls about a third of Iraq and Syria —

much of it captured in a lightning blitz last spring and summer, as Iraqi army forces melted away in the face of the militant onslaught.

In Syria, they have teamed up with moderate rebels for territorial gains against the group.

Elsewhere in Hassakeh, IS fighters this week captured dozens of mostly Christian villages to the west of Tel Hamees — taking at least 220 Assyrian Christians hostage, according to activists. The fate of those abducted was still unknown.

On Thursday, video emerged of IS militants smashing ancient Mesopotamian artifacts in a museum in Mosul, Iraq's second largest city.

Irina Bokova, the head of the U.N. cultural agency, UNESCO, denounced the group's destruction of ancient statues and artifacts as "cultural cleansing" and a war crime that the world must punish. □

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Greek Prime Minister Tsipras rules out third bailout

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's new radical left government has no intention of seeking another bailout deal from international creditors and will spend coming months trying to ease the terms of its current commitments, the financially struggling country's prime minister said Friday. Alexis Tsipras remarks came hours after lawmakers in Germany, a key rescue loan provider, overwhelmingly approved the four-month extension of Greece's extant deal. "The bailout agreements are over, both in form and in essence," Tsipras told a cabinet meeting. "Some people are betting on a third bailout in June ... but we will disappoint them." Tsipras' radical left Syriza party, which is governing in coalition with the small right-wing Independent Greeks, was elected a month ago on a highly ambitious platform of cancelling the

austerity measures that accompanied Greece's 240 billion euro (\$270 billion) rescue loans. But despite repeated and often unorthodox attempts to win over other European creditor countries, Greece was forced to retreat from initial electoral promises that included a massive new write-down of the country's crushing debt. Last week, fellow members of the 19-member eurozone agreed on the four-month loan agreement extension, in return for which Greece offered a fluid commitment to budget reforms. Tsipras said his first act of legislation would be to table a draft law on Monday to address what Syriza calls the "humanitarian crisis" — extensive poverty brought about by the deep income cuts and shockingly high unemployment resulting from creditor-mandated cutbacks. "This is our foremost duty toward a society that has been



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras waits for the arrival of German politician and Member of the European Parliament for The Greens Ska Keller, in Athens, on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015. Tsipras chaired a Cabinet meeting on Friday.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

severely tried for five years," he said. "The bill will contain specific action to provide free power and food to thousands of families that need it, to make Greece

once again a civilized country ... So that no child is cold, no child faints from hunger or goes to school hungry."

Tsipras also pledged to

provide housing for 30,000 people, limit evictions, and facilitate payment terms for an estimated 3.7 million people with tax debts of up to 5,000 euros (\$5,620). □



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Unmasking of 'Jihadi John' as a London lad shocks Britain

GREGORY KATZ
JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The unmasking of Islamic State militant "Jihadi John" as a Londoner who had repeatedly been questioned by security services sent shock waves through Britain Friday, with Prime Minister David Cameron stepping in to defend British spy craft. Cameron tried to defuse criticism of Britain's intelligence community, which had "Jihadi John" on its list of potential terror suspects for years but was unable to prevent him from traveling to Syria, where he has played a prominent role in grisly beheading videos. Cameron did not mention "Jihadi John" or refer to his real identity: Mohammed Emwazi, a Kuwait-born computer science graduate raised and educated in Britain. But he said the country's spies make "incredibly difficult judgments" daily about how to pursue threats to national security and have broken up plots that would have caused immense damage. Emwazi had been known to the British intelligence services since at least 2009, initially in connection with investigations into terrorism in Somalia.

David Anderson, who is in charge of reviewing Britain's terrorism legislation, said intelligence agencies may have dropped the ball, but faced a big challenge to identify real threats from "hundreds, probably thousands" of suspects. "Perhaps they did slip up

in this case but one won't know until there's been an inquiry or a report of some kind," he told the BBC. The case has some parallels to that of two al-Qaida-inspired extremists who

His identification as the front man in IS murder videos has raised questions about how a soccer-playing London youngster who liked smart clothes became one of the world's most wanted men.

a Lebanese-British militant who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Somalia in January 2012. Emails that Emwazi sent to a Muslim advocacy group reveal a young man in-

identified himself as Nick, suggested Emwazi "work for us" before saying "life will be harder for you" if he did not cooperate. It is clear that Emwazi was unnerved after his unwanted interrogation.

"He knew everything about me; where I lived, what I did, the people I hanged around with," he wrote in one of the emails that CAGE made public Thursday. "He even said that he would try to visit me. But I refused and told him that I did not want him to pay me a visit."

The following year Emwazi accused British agents of preventing him from going to Kuwait, where he had a job and planned to marry. He wrote in one email that his "'life' is kind of on a 'pause.'"

Like many British Muslims who have become radicalized in recent years, he seemed to feel that Muslims were increasingly under attack in many parts of the world and complained to CAGE of the plight of his fellow believers in Chechnya, Iraq and elsewhere. CAGE said that Emwazi even changed his name in a bid to escape the attentions of the security services, but still was barred from going to Kuwait. His family reported him missing early in 2013. Four months later, police told them Emwazi was in Syria, CAGE said. He appeared in a video released in August showing the slaying of American journalist James Foley, denouncing the West before the killing. □



CAGE research director Asim Qureshi, left, speaks next to political activist John Rees, center, and spokesman Cerie Bullivant, right, during a press conference held by the CAGE human rights charity in London.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

murdered a British soldier in a London street in May 2013. A report by lawmakers concluded that delays and other failings by the agencies had contributed to that tragedy. However, it is not clear what laws could have been used to prevent Emwazi from leaving Britain at the time, since he had not been charged with any terrorist-related offenses. It is not known if police or security services had any evidence he was planning to join extremists in Syria.

Authorities were working to piece together the path to radicalization of Emwazi, who came to Britain from Kuwait as a small child and attended state schools in London before studying computer science at the University of Westminster. Court documents from 2011 obtained by the BBC list Emwazi as part of a network of west London men suspected by MI5 of sending funds, equipment and recruits to al-Shabab militants in Somalia. The group included Bilal al-Berjawi,

creasingly frustrated by the attentions of British spies and angry at the plight of Muslims around the world. Emwazi approached the group, CAGE, after he and two friends were arrested and deported on a trip to Tanzania in August 2009. They said they were going on a post-university safari. But Emwazi said he was grilled by a British intelligence officer who accused him of trying to travel to Somalia to link up with terrorists there. He said the agent, who



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Venezuelan protest deadly force order after teen killed

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Students and opposition leaders are pressuring Venezuela to roll back a new regulation authorizing police to fire on protesters following the death of a 14-year-old boy at the hands of a police officer. The resolution drew criticism when it was implemented in January, but the debate heated up this week after a police officer killed the teenager at an anti-government protest in the restive western town of San Cristobal.

Students on Friday began gathering signatures to ask the socialist South American government to repeal the regulation that allows the use of deadly force to control protests. Professors, opposition politicians and human rights groups held a news conference on Thursday to condemn the new rule.

The boy, Kluiverth Roa, was shot in the head Tuesday by a 23-year-old officer who is expected to be prosecuted in connection in the killing. Officials say he used plastic ammunition, but the boy's family believes live rounds were used. President Nicolas Maduro immediately went on the defensive, reiterating in a televised address hours after the killing that "armed repression is not allowed in Venezuela."

The governor of Tachira, where San Cristobal is located, defended the resolution on Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Decree 8610 presents the use of weapons as a last resort, and requires the written permission of the defense minister," said Gov. Jose Vielma Mora, a member of Maduro's party. "What's happening is that the government hasn't explained it well." □



Bolivarian National Guard soldiers advances on demonstrators attacking a police station during an anti-government protest in San Cristobal, Venezuela. Students and opposition leaders are pressuring Venezuela to roll back a new regulation authorizing police to fire on protesters.

(AP Photo/STR)

AP: Rio homicide division to investigate killings by police

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Rio de Janeiro's police department said its homicide division will start investigating "resistance killings," or slayings by officers who say that victims died in shoot-outs while resisting arrest. Police across Brazil have come under criticism for using the classification of "resistance killings" to justify what human rights activists allege are often summary executions.

Last year, police in Rio registered 582 such deaths — a 40 percent increase over the previous year. Rio police chief Fernando Veloso said Thursday that "resistance killings" will no longer be investigated by

neighborhood precincts, but instead will be handled by the homicide division. That office will also be in charge of investigating death threats made against judges, public servants and journalists. Police officials didn't respond to calls or an emailed request for more details about the change. The decision came ahead of the dismissal on Friday of a police commander whose officers were implicated in the shooting death of a 15-year-old boy last week in the Palmeirinha slum. Nine officers already had been taken off duty in the case. □

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Mexican drug lord who led Knights Templar gang captured



This frame grab shows Servando "La Tuta" Gomez," leader of the Knights Templar cartel, in an unknown location in Mexico's Michoacan state.

(AP Photo/Mundo Fox via APTN)



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ELISABETH MALKIN

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MEXICO CITY - The Mexican police said Friday that they had captured the leader of the Knights Templar drug gang, a former teacher who taunted the authorities by conducting interviews from hiding and releasing videos in which he talked about his close relationships with his state's political bosses.

Servando Gómez, known as La Tuta (the Teacher), was one of the most-wanted drug kingpins still at large in the country. He had been thought to be hiding out in the remote western part of Michoacán, his home state. But he was captured in the state capital, Morelia, on Friday without a shot being fired, the police said. He was eating a hot dog at a street stand when he was apprehended, local news reports said.

Gómez, 49, who is also wanted in the United States for methamphetamine and cocaine trafficking, rose through the ranks of a gang known as La Familia, which terrorized Michoacán state with kidnapping and extortion. As its leaders were killed, the gang renamed itself the Knights Templar, and its violence prompted frustrated citizens to form vigilante groups.

The national government sent contingents of police officers and soldiers to Michoacán in January 2014 an effort to restore calm in the state. The effort succeeded in flushing out many of Gómez's top lieutenants, but he remained at large and continued to release videos. He even granted an interview to Channel 4 of Britain, which filmed him handing out cash in one town.

In one video, Gómez was shown drinking beer and

chatting with the son of the former governor of Michoacán, Fausto Vallejo. The governor stepped down after a photograph of his son, Rodrigo Vallejo, and Gómez appeared in newspapers. Rodrigo Vallejo said he had been kidnapped and forced to meet with Gómez.

In other videos, Gómez denounced leaders of the vigilante movement and defended himself as an altruist. He was vowed to die rather than let himself be caught.

In a recent audio post on YouTube, he said the recording would be his last.

"Not because I'm scared," he said, "but because I have to take my measures, and lay low and look after myself."

Although the government has managed to weaken the Knights Templar in Michoacán, the state remains unsettled, and several new violent criminal groups have appeared there, including one called Los Viagra. An attempt to bring the vigilante groups together into an officially sanctioned rural defense force has been resisted by several vigilante leaders. Under his presidency, security forces have caught or killed a number of top drug bosses, including Joaquín Guzmán Loera, the leader of the powerful Sinaloa cartel who is known as El Chapo or Shorty, who was arrested in February 2014. A month later, federal troops killed the founder of La Familia, Nazario Moreno González. But the arrests and killings of cartel leaders have not quelled the violence in much of the country, as the gangs splinter, fight over territory and branch out from drug trafficking into kidnapping and extortion. □



At Costa Linda Beach Resort:

Fun for All at the Tom & Gerry Horseshoe Tournament



EAGLE BEACH - Tom & Gerry have owned weeks 8 and 9 at the Costa Linda Beach Resort for 10 years. For 6 years Tom & Gerry played horseshoes with a legend by the name of Teddy. Teddy won most of the time and talked about



the "Teddy Cup" Horseshoe tournament in week 7. It sounded like lots of fun so since Tom & Gerry were not at the Costa Linda for week 7, they began talking about starting their own horseshoe tournament in week 8. As a result, 5 years ago the Tom & Gerry Horseshoe Tournament was born on the sandy beach at Costa Linda!

The tournament is a double-elimination event which is great fun but also includes water-side grilled ribs, chicken, hot dogs and hamburgers plus several types of beverages, not only for the players, but for the spouses as well!

In the past four years the tournament has had anywhere from 20 to 34 players. The 2015 champions are Teddy Pappas and Mario Disomma, with a final score of 21, and in second place were Jack Hall and Klaus Burckhardt with a final score of 9. It's a great time and if you are here next year on the Wednesday of week 8, stop by Costa Linda and join in the fun or just watch the fun and excitement! □



Purgatory Wins Quiz Night final at Cafe the Plaza

PALM BEACH - The place night of the first series of the 2015 Cafe the Plaza Quiz Night this week. For seven consecutive weeks regu-



lar teams and a few teams made up of carnival fans, played tough battles during the first two months of the year. On February 24 it was week 8 and the tournament table was stacked with bottles of wine and goodie bags, provided by the sponsors of the Quiz Night, Romar Trading, Pepia Est and Aruba Wine and Dine.

The teams in the lead showed up in full force, determined to deal decisive blows to the competition. The ladies of 'Evil Geniuses', winning the previous quiz night, were full of confidence. The two top teams, Purgatory and Synergy, came to settle the score during this series once and for all. Quiz master Evert Bongers had prepared quite some dif-

ficult questions, including several about the 2015 Oscar Awards. In the end the evening's winner had just one point advantage over the runner-up: Purgatory, leaving Synergy behind, was the winner of the evening, but in the overall standings, it was the other way around: Synergy was victorious with 35 points, Purgatory runner-up with 32 points and the Evil Geniuses in 3rd place with 18 points. The Plaza Quiz Night series starts this coming Tuesday with a new series of 8 weeks of fun. Teams made up of 2 to 5 players is welcome to join in at Cafe the Plaza; the questions start coming at 8pm sharp. So come on down on Tuesday evenings to the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad. Don't miss it! □

Another Lucky Winner at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

PALM BEACH- Tuesday, February 24 was a very lucky evening for Mrs. Anastacia Vrettos, when she became the winner of \$5017.00 at the Three Card Poker table. Mrs.

Vrettos is a very loyal customer of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel and Casino and she loves to play at the slot machines and Three Card Poker, which is her favorite game. The

photo shows the lovely and very happy Mrs. Vrettos with her winning hand. Congratulations from all the Ladies and Gentlemen of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba. □



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Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture Mr. O. Oduber as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba 35-or-more consecutive years. Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority presented the Emerald Certificate and commemorative Emerald Coin Certificate together with General Manager Mr. Bob Curtis and Mrs. Nohely Cannegieter at Casa del Mar. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees is they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island," they love the great weather, and of course the friendly Aruban hospitality. Congratulation Mr. Donald & Mrs. Jewell you hold a special place in the hearts of Arubans! ☐

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CAMICURI - Proud car owners got together to show their 'toys' off at the first 'Meet & Greet' car show. Both classics and race cars were placed in front of Garage Cordia Aruba, located



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pletely restored in the original state. The proud car owners were showing their cars, explaining to the visitors all about them with big smiles over their faces. □



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DUBAI SHOWDOWN



Djokovic and Federer to renew rivalry

Roger Federer of Switzerland serves the ball to Borna Coric of Croatia during a semi final match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.

Associated Press
Page 19

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Victoria Azarenka of Belarus clenches her fist after winning a point against Venus Williams of the U.S. during the semifinal of the WTA Qatar Ladies Open in Doha, Qatar, Friday, Feb. 27, 2015. Associated Press

Azarenka to face Safarova in Qatar Open final

DOHA, Qatar (AP)

— Victoria Azarenka reached the final of the Qatar Open on Friday after recovering from one set down to beat Venus Williams.

The two-time champion Azarenka, beat Williams 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

"Venus was kicking my butt left and right and I didn't know what to do. In the second set I took control," said Azarenka, who fired 36 winners in the two hour, eighteen minute battle which was watched among others by former England football captain David Beckham.

The Belarusian, who won in 2012 and 2013, was forced to withdraw last year due to a foot inflammation.

She will face Lucie Safarova in Saturday's final,

after she beat Carla Suarez Navarro 6-3, 6-2 in the other semi.

The Czech No.3 hardly broke any sweat in the 77 minute encounter in which Navarro committed 21 unforced errors.

"It's so exciting! I've been playing so well in all my matches, so I'm happy. I worked really hard in the off season and my level has been going up, so I'm enjoying playing," said Safarova, who has now won all three matches against Suarez Navarro. In the first set, the 2014 Wimbledon semi-finalist broke Navarro's serve in the second game. Though she dropped her serve in the seventh game, Safarova broke back in the next game. In the second set, she excelled with her pow-

erful ground strokes.

"I felt confident from the beginning. I was feeling that my game is working against Carla. And that was the plan, to play aggressive and take her time away because she's very good in defense. And she can also, from her backhand side, play very strong. So I was trying to push more through the forehand," added Safarova, who is a member of Czech's triumphant Fed Cup squad.

Victory for Azarenka in the final will see the current world No.48 will become the first player to win three titles in Doha. Russians Maria Sharapova (2005, 2008) and Anastasia Myskina (2003, 2004) are the others to have won it twice. □

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Djokovic to face defending champ Federer in Dubai final

SANDRA HARWITT
Associated Press
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Top-seeded Novak Djokovic will face defending champion Roger Federer in the final of the Dubai Championships after a three-set win over Tomas Berdych on Friday.

Djokovic, who had a set and a service break lead in the match, eventually beat the fourth-seeded Berdych 6-0, 5-7, 6-4.

"You don't expect anything less than hard work against someone who has been a top 10 player for many years," Djokovic said. "Even when it went as perfectly as possible in the first set and I was a break up I knew it wasn't over."

Despite the lead, Djokovic started making too many errors - 48 unforced errors in all — to



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during a semi final match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.

allow Berdych back into the match.

"There were a lot of unforced errors because I just wasn't feeling the ball great," Djokovic

admitted. Berdych had reached the final in the last two years, losing out to Djokovic in 2013 and Federer in 2014.

Federer secured his pas-

sage to Saturday's final with a 6-2, 6-1 win over lucky loser Borna Coric. "Maybe I did have just a bit of too much variety for him today, and

I made it difficult," Federer said. "And clearly it was also part of the game plan to check him out how he was going to handle the slice and the speed, the chip and charge and the serve and volley a bit, and I'm happy for me it worked out very well."

Federer offered Coric three break point opportunities and had his serve broken once in the match, in the fifth game of the first set.

In the end, however, Federer had little trouble ending Coric's magical week in Dubai.

"I gave my best," Coric said. "My best wasn't even close enough, good today, but what you can do."

Federer or Djokovic have won the Dubai title 10 of the last 12 years. Federer's won six times and Djokovic's looking for his fifth victory. □

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

James scores season high as Cavs beat Warriors

The Associated Press

LeBron James says he isn't about personal statements. He made one anyway on Thursday.

James scored a season-high 42 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Golden State Warriors 110-99 for an 18th victory in their last 20 NBA games.

James added 11 rebounds, out-playing fellow MVP candidate Stephen Curry, and leading Cleveland past the team with the NBA's best record for its 11th straight home victory.

James downplayed any talk that the performance may put him in the lead for MVP consideration.

"That's not why I'm here," he said. "I've got to be the MVP for these guys, the 14 guys in the locker room. When I'm on the floor I'll try to do everything I can to help this team win."

The Cavaliers did get a bit of bad news. All-Star guard Kyrie Irving, who scored 24 points, injured his left shoulder and didn't travel with the team to Indiana for Friday's game. A team spokesman said Irving will have an exam on Friday



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, right, drives past Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, in Cleveland. Associated Press

and is doubtful against the Pacers. Curry scored 18 points, but had only six after the first quarter and was 5 of 17 from the field.

"I hope it's not handed out on this one game," Curry said of the MVP talk. "I hope it's about the body of

work. Tonight just wasn't my best game. Shots that I normally make didn't fall tonight."

David Lee led Golden State with 19 points.

James was out with knee and back injuries when the teams met

on Jan. 9, a 112-94 win for Golden State. Although the four-time MVP hit 15 of 25 from the field on Thursday, the back apparently is still an issue. James stretched out on the floor instead of sitting on the bench when he had a rest in the fourth quarter.

In the only other game, Russell Westbrook scored 39 points in his 12th career triple-double but missed what would have been the game-tying layup with 5.7 seconds left in overtime, as Oklahoma City's seven-game winning streak was ended by the Phoenix Suns 117-113 in overtime.

In an intense matchup of point guards, Phoenix's Eric Bledsoe just missed a triple-double with 28 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists. Westbrook missed his first eight shots and finished 12 of 38, 1 of 10 from 3-point range, but scored 31 in the second half and overtime for his fourth triple-double this season. Markieff Morris scored 29 for the Suns, who pulled within 1½ games of the Thunder for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. □

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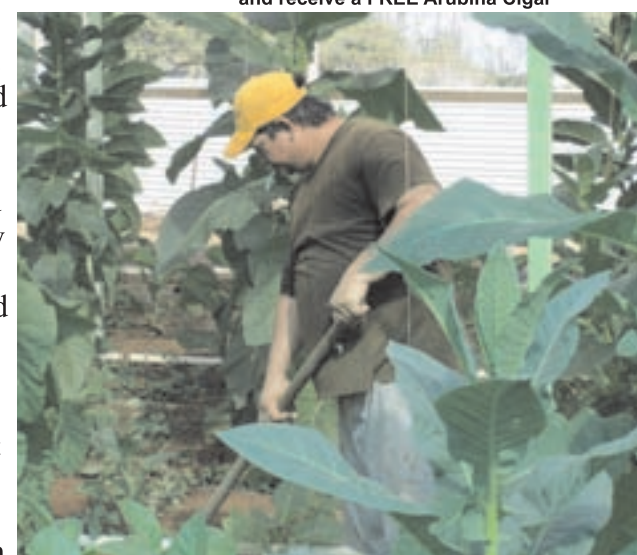
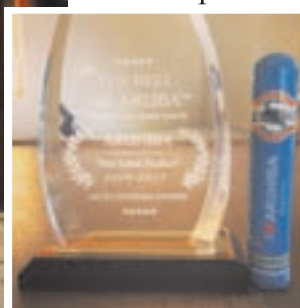


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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NHL Capsules

Crawford stops 20 shots for win over Panthers



Nashville Predators left wing James Neal, left, and Minnesota Wild defenseman Matt Dumba, center, battle for a rebound after Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk, right, blocks a shot in the first period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

SUNRISE, Florida (AP) — Corey Crawford earned his second shutout of the season in the Chicago Blackhawks' 3-0 win over the Florida Panthers on Thursday night.

Brandon Saad and Teuvo Teravainen scored goals before Jonathan Toews added an empty-netter with 46.8 seconds left.

The Blackhawks won their second consecutive game after previously losing three straight and beat the Panthers for the seventh straight time. The last time the Blackhawks lost to the Panthers was March, 8, 2011.

It was the first game for Chicago since losing leading scorer Patrick Kane, placed on long-term injured reserve Wednesday with a broken left collarbone suffered in Tuesday's 3-2 shootout win over the Panthers.

Crawford stopped 20 shots by a sluggish Florida offense, which took only four shots in the first period and didn't take its fifth shot on goal until 10:47 of the sec-

ond.

Canadiens 5, Blue Jackets 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Carey Price made 25 saves to extend his franchise-best road winning streak to 10 games.

P.K. Subban had a goal and two assists, rookie Jacob De La Rose scored twice, Andrei Markov had a goal and an assist, and Max Pacioretty also scored. Montreal got its seventh win in 10 games and 11th in the last 13 on the road.

Brandon Dubinsky and Marko Dano scored for Columbus, and David Savard had two assists. Curtis McElhinney finished with 22 saves as the Blue Jackets lost their fourth straight.

Columbus, which leads the league in man-games lost to injuries, lost Dubinsky right after his goal and he did not return.

Rangers 4, Coyotes 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Lee Stempniak broke a tie with 2:14 left, netting his second goal of the game, and Chris Kreider also scored twice.

In sending the Coyotes to

their eighth straight loss, Stempniak backhanded in a rebound of his own shot on the doorstep. That gave the Rangers their fourth consecutive win and 11th in 14 games (11-1-2).

Kevin Hayes had two assists, and Cam Talbot stopped 37 shots as New York moved into a first-place tie with the Islanders in the Metropolitan Division.

Sam Gagner scored two goals, and Mark Arcobello added one for Arizona, which led 3-1 after the first period. Mike Smith made 34 saves.

Sabres 6, Canucks 3

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Torrey Mitchell scored a pair of goals for Buffalo. It was Mitchell's first goal since Nov. 22, and his first multi-goal night since March 23, 2011.

Chris Stewart, Andrej Meszaros, Brian Flynn and Brian Gionta also scored for the Sabres, who were without their two leading scorers, Tyler Ennis and Zemgus Girgensons, due to injury.

The win gave last-place Buffalo victories in consecutive games for just the fourth time this season.

Vancouver got goals from Shawn Matthias, Daniel Sedin and Jannik Hansen as it finished a five-game road trip with a 3-2 record.

Maple Leafs 3, Flyers 2

TORONTO (AP) — In their first game without the traded David Clarkson, Jonathan Bernier made 47 saves and the Maple Leafs beat Philadelphia. The win came mere hours after the Leafs dealt Clarkson to the Columbus Blue Jackets for injured winger Nathan Horton.

Phil Kessel, Tyler Bozak and Dion Phaneuf scored

for Toronto. Claude Giroux and Brayden Schenn scored third-period goals for Philadelphia. □

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SAT 3:50 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:00 | 8:20

THE LAZARUS EFFECT
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

Kingsman
THE SECRET SERVICE
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY
MON-THURS 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
FRI 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
SAT SAT 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25

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JUPITER ASCENDING
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
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FRI 9:10 | 12:00
SAT 9:10 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 9:10

THE WEDDING RINGER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35 | 10:45
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35

THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2D VERSION
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SAT 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05
SUN & HOL 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05

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Hank Steinbrenner looking ahead and not back with A-Rod

MARK DITLER

Associated Press

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Hank Steinbrenner is looking ahead and not back when it comes to Alex Rodriguez. Suspended last season for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract, Rodriguez reported to the Yankees' spring training camp Wednesday at George Steinbrenner Field. A-Rod is trying to return as his 40th birthday approaches in July.

"Hopefully this spring he can contribute, that's the bottom line," Steinbrenner, the Yankees' co-chairman, said Wednesday. "He can hit. He's a natural. Hopefully he can still do it. We're just going take it as it goes. As far as whether he can contribute or not, we'll have to see. Hopefully he will. Hopefully he'll help the lineup."

Steinbrenner was heavily involved in the team's decision to sign Rodriguez to a record \$275 million, 10-year contract in December 2007 after the three-time MVP terminated his \$252 million, 10-year deal with three seasons remaining.

Rodriguez has not played a full season since then because of injuries, which led to operations on both hips, and the suspension. Rodri-



New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman watches batting practice during a spring training baseball workout, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, in Tampa, Fla. The first official workout for the full squad is Thursday.

guez has apologized to the Yankees and to fans, but didn't go into specifics on his actions that led to the ban. Six years ago, he admitted using performance-enhancing drugs while with Texas. Rodriguez completed his physical Wednesday, which he said he passed, and met with manager Joe Girardi before making the mile trip for his third early workout at the Yankees' minor league complex. He hit five hom-

ers in 102 batting practice swings.

General manager Brian Cashman said he was surprised when Rodriguez arrived Monday.

Rodriguez declined to say whether he apologized to Girardi, saying "I'm going to keep our conversations private."

"It was a good meeting, positive," Rodriguez said. "I think Joe's position has always been one to back me

up. I'd go through a wall for Joe."

Girardi also wouldn't say whether an apology was made.

"We had a good conversation, and he's ready to go to work," Girardi said. "We talked a little bit about what our goals are in spring training. I told him I'd get him as many at-bats as I could that he could physically handle. He said I'm here to try to help this team win. I want to play,

I want to help this team win."

Girardi and Cashman say Chase Headley will be their starting third baseman and Rodriguez will compete for at-bats at designated hitter. Rodriguez could see some time at first base.

"I told him whatever he needs, I'm all in," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said the biggest thing for him in Thursday's first full-squad workout is "just being back in pinstripes."

"It's been a long time," he said.

The Yankees are hoping for a turnaround season after missing the playoffs the past two years.

Healthy seasons for Masahiro Tanaka and Michael Pineda will be key.

Tanaka made two late September starts after missing 2 1/2 months last season with a partially torn elbow ligament. Pineda went 5-5 with an 1.89 ERA in 13 starts after returning from a shoulder injury that sidelined him for two years. "If Tanaka and Pineda can stay healthy, we're going to be very tough in that area," Steinbrenner said. "We've got two legitimate top-notch starting pitchers. Nobody would deny that. If they can stay healthy, we can be very tough this year." □

Earl Lloyd, 1st black player in NBA, dies at 86

By The Associated Press

Earl Lloyd was a player and coach, an NBA champion and later a Hall of Famer. Within the basketball world, he's something much bigger.

He was a pioneer.

Lloyd, the first black player in NBA history, died Thursday at 86. West Virginia State, his alma mater, confirmed the death but did not provide details.

"The NBA family has lost one of its patriarchs," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement. "Earl Lloyd, the first African-American to play in an NBA game, was as inspirational as he was understated. He was known as a modest gentleman who played the game with skill,



In this April 23, 2003, file photo, Earl Lloyd is honored at halftime of the Detroit Pistons-Orlando Magic NBA basketball playoff game in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Associated Press

class, and pride. His legacy survives in the league he helped integrate, and the entire NBA family will

strive to always honor his memory."

Lloyd made his NBA debut in 1950 for the Washington Capitols, just before black players Sweetwater Clifton and Chuck Cooper played their first games.

Lloyd helped the Syracuse Nationals win the 1955 NBA title, joining teammate Jim Tucker as the first black players to play on a championship team. Lloyd later became the first black assistant coach with the Detroit Pistons in 1968.

The National Basketball Retired Players Association said Lloyd "forever changed the game of basketball" on Halloween night in 1950. The organization hailed him as

"a leader, a pioneer, a soldier." Lloyd missed the 1951-52 season while in the Army.

"Modest and willing to share his story with anyone when asked, Earl offered a vivid window into our nation's segregated past and personified change in this country," the NBRPA said. "A truly historic figure in American history has passed."

The 6-foot-5 forward averaged 8.4 points and 6.4 rebounds in 560 regular-season games in nine seasons with Washington, Syracuse and Detroit. Inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003 as a contributor, Lloyd was 22-55 as Detroit's coach in 1971-72 and the first nine games in

the 1972-73 season. "Our franchise will always remember the impact and contributions Earl made to the game of basketball and to the Detroit Pistons as a player, head coach and television analyst," the Pistons said.

Lloyd, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, lived in Crossville, Tennessee.

West Virginia State President Brian Hemphill called Lloyd a "trailblazer who was a true champion."

"When Earl stepped out on the court on that fateful date in 1950, this remarkable man rightfully earned his place in the historic civil rights movement and, more important, he opened the door to equality in America." □

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Facebook adds new gender option for users: fill in the blank

MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer

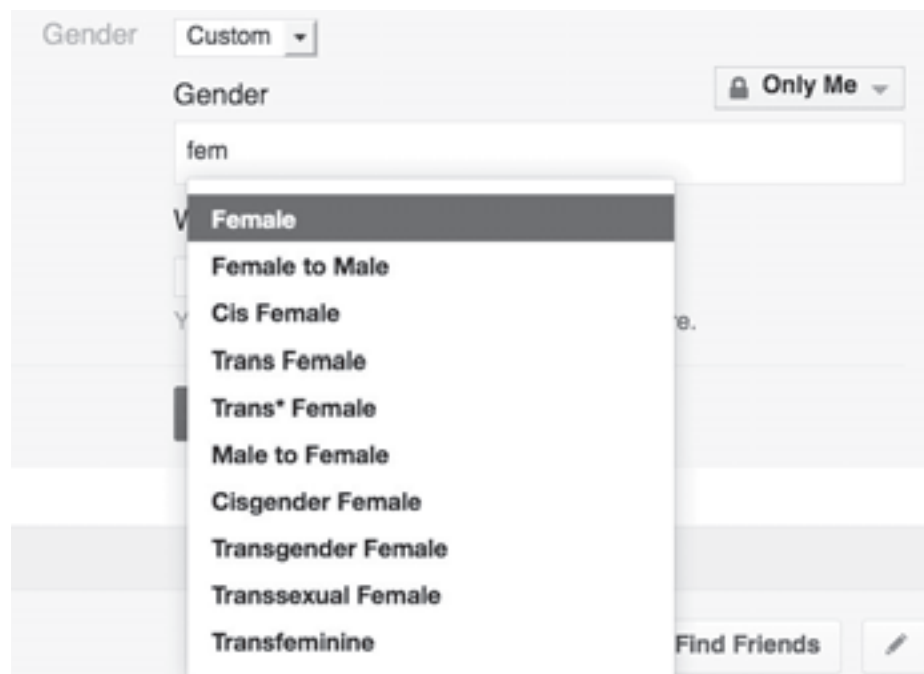
Facebook users who don't fit any of the 58 gender identity options offered by the social media giant are now being given a rather big 59th option: fill in the blank.

"Now, if you do not identify with the pre-populated list of gender identities, you are able to add your own," said a Facebook announcement published online Thursday morning and shared in advance with The Associated Press.

Facebook software engineer Ari Chivukula, who identifies as transgender and was part of the team that made the free-form option, thinks the change will lead to more widespread acceptance of people who don't identify themselves as a man or woman.

Alison C.K. Fogarty, a gender identity researcher at Stanford University, said giving users control over the words describing their gender is a significant step in social recognition of a growing trans community, especially coming from the world's largest social media company.

"People are still fighting to make



In this screen grab provided by Facebook, the custom gender options now available are seen on a profile page.

Associated Press

room for gender identity within the socially constructed binary of male and female," Fogarty said.

In February 2014, Facebook expanded gender identity from male and female to a list of dozens of options, including Androgyne, Gender Fluid, Intersex, Neither and

Transgender. Those choices will all still be available.

People who choose a custom gender can also choose the pronoun they would like to be referred to publicly: he/his, she/her or they/their.

Facebook has a setting for users

to control the audience who sees their gender.

Last year's changes created an online stir, with thousands of comments — some grateful, others confused or hostile. But staff at Facebook said there was full support to take it even further this year, from CEO Mark Zuckerberg on down. As of Thursday, the free-form option rolled out to U.S. users, while the custom gender identity option with a list of words was available in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Argentina and Denmark.

One thing that has not changed is an "interested in" option for Facebook users to define whom they might want to date. That option still only allows men or women, but users can click both options, one option or neither option. They can also hide it entirely.

Facebook, which has 1.23 billion active monthly users around the world, would not release how many users have chosen gender identity options beyond man or woman, citing privacy concerns and a general practice of not sharing user information. □

Google releases work tools designed for Android phones

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google is releasing a set of tools designed for businesses and employees who want to get work done on Android-powered smartphones, setting up a skirmish on another key front of mobile computing.

The technology unveiled Wednesday launches Google's attempt to turn Android phones into the digital hub of people's personal and professional lives. The expansion will pit Google Inc. against Microsoft Corp. and BlackBerry Inc., which have been focusing on the corporate market for years. Google will also be dueling its biggest rival in mobile computing, Apple Inc., which

forged a partnership with IBM Corp. last year to build more iPhone and iPad applications tailored for businesses and government agencies.

Google and Apple have become so dominant that 96 percent of the smartphones sold last year run on the companies' software, according to the research firm IDC. But most people use those phones to take pictures, message their friends, check Facebook and Twitter and engage in other personal endeavors. In many cases, people also may check their work email on their phones.

But Google and Apple are trying to make it more enticing and convenient for people to transplant more of their professional lives on

to their phones. As part of that process, the companies are rolling out more business-oriented applications and tougher security to make employers feel more comfortable about their workers using their phones for their jobs.

"Our vision is that every employee out there should have a work-enabled device in their hands," said Rajen Sheth, director of product management for Android's push into the office.

Far more people already own Android phones than iPhones, a lead that Google hopes works to its advantage in the corporate mobility market. IDC estimates that more than 1 billion Android phones were sold last year,

compared to 193 million iPhones. The huge disparity has largely been driven by Google's decision to give away its Android software, helping to make the devices running on the software more affordable than iPhones. By design, Apple has focused on more affluent consumers.

The corporate and government market is appealing because employers are willing to spend more people on applications and security than most consumers. Google announced its Android for Work program at a conference eight months ago, but needed more time to test the technology before its release. The tools include the ability to create separate personal and professional profiles

on the same phone in an effort to reassure workers worried about their bosses snooping on their private lives. Even though the data is kept in separate silos, Google has created a way for work programs and personal apps such as Facebook to appear on the same home screen for convenience.

Android for Work will be automatically available on phones running on the most recent release of the operating system, "Lollipop," or version 5.0. An Android for Work app can be downloaded to make the package work on phones running older versions of the software. Google's Play store is also opening a section devoted to work applications. □

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Stocks slip on weak growth; end best month since 2011



Traders John Bishop, left, and Anthony Riccio work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Major stock indexes closed lower on Friday, capping a week of subdued trading that still delivered a couple of new highs for the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

February proved to be a strong month for U.S. stocks, even though it ended in downbeat fashion. Major stock indexes closed lower on Friday, capping a week of subdued trading that still delivered a

couple of new highs for the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index. It also brought the Nasdaq composite within striking distance of its March 2000 high. The Nasdaq notched the biggest monthly gain at 7.1 percent. But the S&P 500's

5.5 percent performance marked its best monthly increase since October 2011, and a turnaround from its 3.1 percent slide in January. The Dow rose 5.6 percent for the month. Trading was listless for much of Friday as investors balanced encouraging re-

ports on housing and consumer confidence against data showing that the U.S. economy grew at a slower annual rate in the final months of 2014 than previously estimated. Oil rose, recouping some of its losses from a day earlier. Technology stocks were among the biggest decliners.

"Many people are trying to figure out what to do, taking some profits when they can. We saw that over the past couple of days with tech stocks," said JJ Kinnahan, TD Ameritrade's chief strategist. "It's a wait-and-see attitude."

The Dow ended down 81.72 points, or 0.5 percent, to 18,132.70. That's 0.5 percent below its most-recent high of 18,224.57 on Wednesday.

The S&P 500 slid 6.24 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,104.50. The index is down 0.5 from a high of 2,115.48 on Tuesday.

The Nasdaq fell 24.36 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,963.53. The index has been inching closer to crossing the 5,000-point

mark, something it hasn't done since March 2000 at the height of the dot-com era. It's now within 86 points of that peak.

The three main U.S. stock indexes are all up for the year.

The current bull market, now in its sixth year, has been powered by strong corporate earnings growth and low interest rates, which make stocks more attractive relative to bonds. Strong job growth and improving consumer confidence have also encouraged traders, despite signs of sluggishness in Europe and elsewhere.

Some of that confidence appeared shaken on Friday, when the Commerce Department reported that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 2.2 percent in the October-December quarter, weaker than the 2.6 percent estimate last month. The latest growth projection represents a major slowdown from the previous quarter, which produced the strongest growth in 11 years. □

With revamped Gold Cards;

Bruised American Express returns focus to affluent

HILARY STOUT
© 2015 New York Times

American Express, bruised by the recent loss of two major partnerships and an important court case, is seeking to reinvigorate its brand by sweetening the rewards on one of its most popular line of cards. The company announced this week new benefits for holders of its gold cards, including double points for all restaurant transactions in the United States for its premier rewards gold card and regular gold card. It will begin offering a per-

sonalized travel service for those cardholders as well as a \$100 annual credit for airline incidentals, including meals and baggage surcharges.

And it will eliminate foreign transaction fees. Other types of gold cards will get new benefits as well.

The new gold card benefits, which will begin June 1, won't come without some added cost to cardholders: The annual membership fee for the premier rewards gold card will rise \$20, to \$195 per year. For the regular gold card, it will rise even

more, to \$160 from \$125.

The move signals a reinvestment in the company's core business - premium charge cards aimed at affluent consumers - after recent efforts to expand its base to more middle-income shoppers.

"You've seen us enter new consumer spaces, but we're also getting really invested in continuing to rebuild our premium cards," said Lisa Durocher, the company's senior vice president, charge and benefits.

Little has gone right for

AmEx in recent months - falling gas prices and weak holiday season sales took a toll on its revenue targets. The company said in January that it would eliminate 4,000 jobs, or about 6 percent of its workforce. It announced this month that it had failed to renew two key partnerships, with Costco and JetBlue.

Then, last week a federal judge ruled that AmEx had violated antitrust laws with its longstanding policy that bars merchants that accept its cards from steering customers to use low-

er-cost forms of payment. The transaction fees AmEx charges merchants are routinely higher than those levied by other card companies, in part to finance the lucrative rewards programs of cards like the gold card.

The judge, Nicholas G. Garaufis of the Eastern District of New York, has yet to order a remedy, and AmEx has said it will appeal the ruling, but the company could eventually be forced to alter its way of doing business. □

Volkswagen profits up 20 percent for full year

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— German automaker Volkswagen says net profit rose 20 percent last year to 10.8 billion euros (\$12.1 billion), but offered a cautious outlook for this year. The maker of Volkswagen, Audi, Skoda and SEAT brand cars said Friday that it increased its profit margins during 2014 and proposed to raise its dividend

to shareholders.

For 2015, however, it saw a “persistently challenging market environment.” It said sales would increase by at least 4 percent, “depending on economic conditions.” Volkswagen warned that economic trends in Latin America and Eastern Europe could affect its commercial vehicles and power engi-

neering businesses. Russia's economy appears headed for recession after a sharp drop in the ruble and its recent conflict with Ukraine has undermined business confidence in Eastern Europe. CEO Martin Winterkorn said in a statement that “despite the difficult economic environment, we achieved our goals for 2014.” Chief Financial Of-

ficer Hans Dieter Poetsch said in outlining the company's forecast for this year that “given the subdued growth prospects in regions outside China, there is no guarantee that 2015 will be a successful year — either for the industry or for the Volkswagen Group.” Sales revenue rose 2.8 percent last year to 202.5 billion euros. Volkswagen said

it would raise its dividend to 4.80 euros per ordinary share, up from 4.00 euros in 2013. It said its operating margins improved to 6.3 percent from 5.9 percent, reaching the upper range of its forecast for the year of 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent. Volkswagen shares traded down 1.4 percent after the announcement at 215.90 euros. □

Lloyds to pay dividend for first time since being bailed out

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — London-based Lloyds Banking Group passed a milestone Friday in its recovery from the financial crisis, reporting an annual profit and announcing plans to pay a dividend for the first time since it was rescued by British taxpayers.

The bank posted net income of 1.13 billion pounds (\$1.7 billion) compared with a loss of 838 million pounds in 2013. The bank plans to pay a dividend of 0.75 pence per share, resulting in a total payout of 535 million pounds.

“This is a symbolic development that bears testament to our successful transformation and improved risk profile of the business,” Chief Executive Officer Antonio Horta-Osorio said in a statement.

The government responded with glee, particularly as the announcement comes two months before the May 7 general election in which Britain's recovery from the 2008



People walk past a branch of Lloyds bank on the Strand in central London, Friday, Feb. 27, 2015. London-based Lloyds Banking Group passed a milestone Friday in its recovery from the financial crisis, reporting an annual profit and announcing plans to pay a dividend for the first time since it was rescued by British taxpayers. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

financial crisis will be a central issue. Though the payout requires shareholder approval, Chancellor George Osborne de-

scribed it as good news for savers, shareholders and those whose pensions are invested in Lloyds.

“Today's results are an-

other major milestone in the recovery of the British economy from the Great Recession and the bank bailouts,” Osborne said.

The government injected 20 billion of state capital into Lloyds during the financial crisis, acquiring a 40 percent stake. Political leaders are anxious to return the bank to the private sector, both to get the government's money back and to help the recovery.

The Treasury this week said it had reduced its holding to less than 24 percent, raising about 8 billion pounds. The government will receive about 130 million pounds from the dividend.

Amid the positive news, Lloyds is still working to correct the excesses that almost led to its collapse.

The bank set aside a whopping 3.1 billion pounds to pay for regulatory and legal issues such as payment protection insurance and interest-rate hedging products that were improperly sold. Lloyds is also reviewing its activities in setting foreign exchange rates as regulators investigate allegations of market manipulation. □

Airbus says net profit soared 59 percent in 2014

GREG KELLER
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Airbus says its net profit soared 59 percent last year as a record-high number of jet deliveries helped offset a 551 million euros end-of-year charge against its delayed A400M military transporter program.

The European jet maker said Friday it made a 2.34-billion-euros (\$2.62 billion) net profit in 2014, up

from 1.47 billion euros in 2013. Boeing's chief rival in the \$200 billion commercial aircraft market said it will ramp up production of its in-demand single-aisle A320 series of jets to 50 a month from 2017, from a planned 46 per month in 2016. At the same time Airbus will cut production of its wide-body A330 series to six a month from early next year, from the current rate of 10 a month.

Demand for the A330 is slowing as Airbus starts taking orders for a new-engine version of the plane that it says it will begin delivering at the end of 2017.

Toulouse, France-based Airbus delivered 629 commercial aircraft last year, three more than in 2013 but well below the 723 jets Boeing delivered in 2014. Airbus forecast “slightly higher” aircraft deliveries this year, while Boeing tar-

gets 750 to 755 commercial jet deliveries in 2015.

Chicago-based Boeing and European rival Airbus have prospered as airlines around the world have gone on a shopping spree, helped by rising demand for travel and cheap financing. Boeing won 1,432 net orders last year giving it an eight-year backlog for nearly 5,800 planes valued at \$440 billion.

Airbus took orders for 1,456

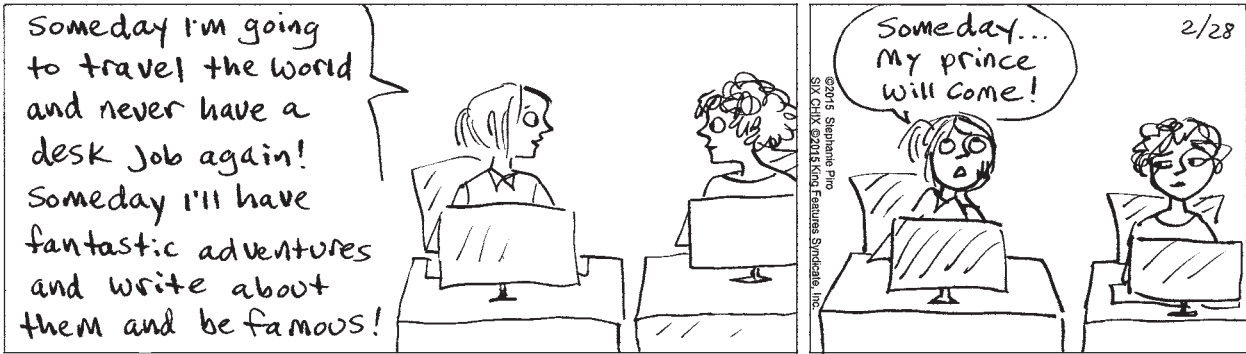
new jets last year net of cancellations, and as of January had a backlog of 6,355 jets.

Last month Airbus dismissed the head of its military program after governments including Germany, France and Turkey complained about delays in the A400M, a 20-billion-euro program for a turboprop troop transporter meant to replace aging Transall C-160s and the C-130 Hercules. □

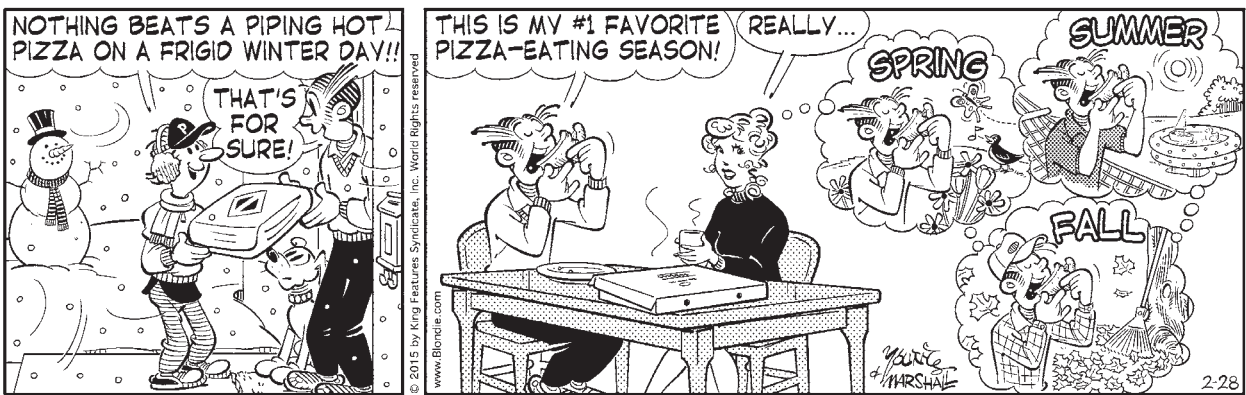
Mutts



6 Chix



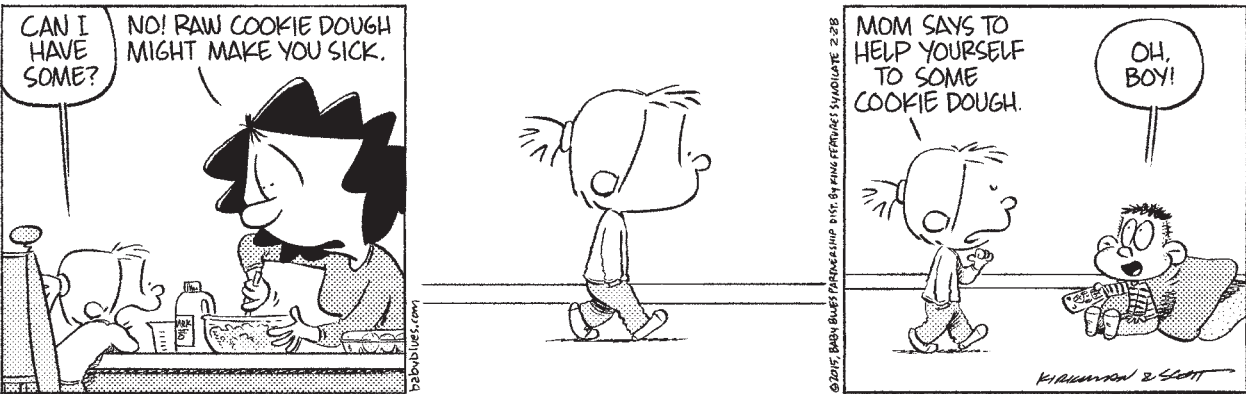
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5						7	
			9				
8		7		2		3	
	8	9		3	6		
4			5			9	
	1	4		6	5		
7		3		8		5	
			1				
9						8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/28

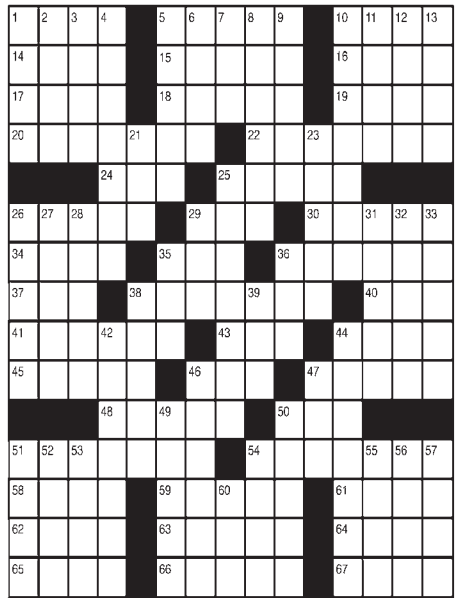
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	3	1	2	8	4	7	9	5
4	2	9	1	7	5	8	6	3
7	5	8	6	9	3	1	4	2
3	4	6	5	2	8	9	7	1
9	8	5	3	1	7	6	2	4
2	1	7	4	6	9	5	3	8
8	6	3	7	5	2	4	1	9
5	7	4	9	3	1	2	8	6
1	9	2	8	4	6	3	5	7

ACROSS

- Weeps
- Catches hold of
- Wahine's dance
- As ___ as sin
- Hayes or Hunt
- Sitting upon
- Instrument for Ringo
- Put ___; set on the shelf
- Duct ___; sticky strip for repairs
- Garden of Eden intruder
- Sandy shores
- Earl Grey ___
- "The Addams Family" butler
- Mistake
- Unpleasant spouse
- Makes well
- Enlarge, as a hole
- Flow back
- Gasoline, to a Brit
- DEF forerunners
- Audience's requests
- ___ one-eighty; totally reverse one's opinion
- Appeared
- Big ___; semi
- Cruise & Hanks
- Firstborn of two
- Nourished
- Severe
- Felt miserable
- White lie
- Pass out cards improperly
- Suitable for drinking
- Canyon sound
- Groucho's prop
- Kill
- Cat's cry
- Make laws
- Scoop holder
- Lofly poems
- Monica of tennis
- Had debts



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/28/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- Lather
- Meanie
- Make indistinct
- Pain, cough, or rash, e.g.
- African nation
- Take a nap
- Muhammad ___
- Insect in the sheets
- Derisive smile
- Small ax
- Western state
- Easy stride
- Primates
- Suffix for profit or auction
- ___ for; pitied
- Toiled
- Wipe away
- Refuse to obey
- Ran fast
- Major network
- Zeal
- Weaving machines
- Deep wide cut
- Finish

CARDS	STIR	MASS
AWAIT	TOTA	OPEN
RACER	GUST	LANE
EYESIGHT	SPARSE	
EVAS	COASTER	
OMELET	SENDS	
NAY	SEEMS	SEATS
TIER	SNEAK	SLOP
ODDER	DARES	MIA
LASER	VITALS	
SHEARED	DICE	
HELPED	BANKROLL	
ILLS	AJAR	ERNIE
FLEE	TART	SOCKS
TONS	EBBS	TREES

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2/28/15

- Nickname for Margaret
- Spooky
- ___ of; free from
- Grasslands
- Hot sauce
- Tabby or tiger
- Big success
- Shoestrings
- Knox & Worth
- Short note
- Frosted
- Oxford or loafer
- Walk the floor
- ___ up; explode
- Pathway
- Watched
- Four qts.

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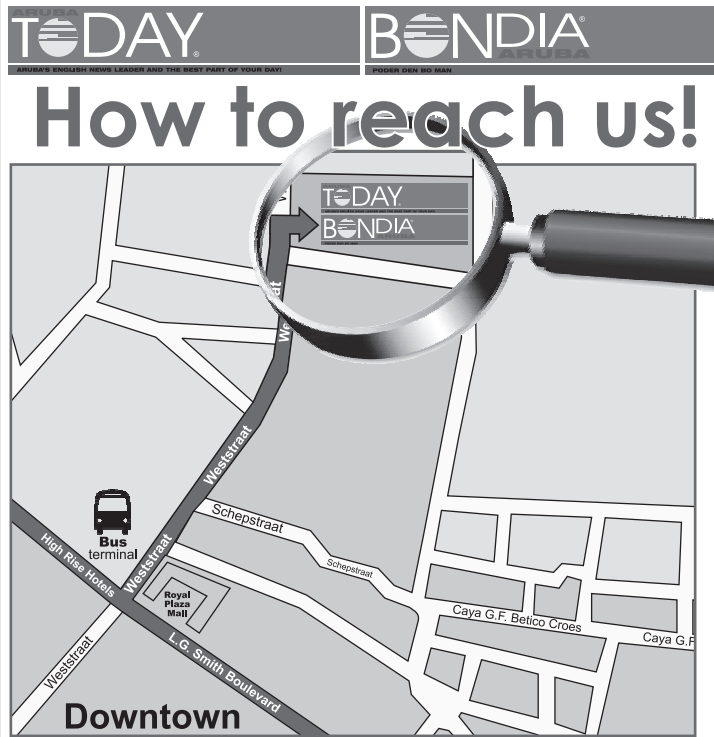
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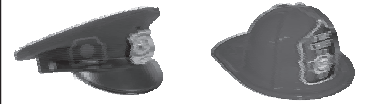
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Bloodbank Aruba

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The big melt: Antarctica's retreating ice may re-shape Earth

LUIS ANDRES HENAO

SETH BORENSTEIN

Associated Press

CAPE LEGOUPI, Antarctica

(AP) — From the ground in this extreme northern part of Antarctica, spectacularly white and blinding ice seems to extend forever. What can't be seen is the battle raging underfoot to re-shape Earth.

Water is eating away at the Antarctic ice, melting it where it hits the oceans. As the ice sheets slowly thaw, water pours into the sea — 130 billion tons of ice (118 billion metric tons) per year for the past decade, according to NASA satellite calculations. That's the weight of more than 356,000 Empire State Buildings, enough ice melt to fill more than 1.3 million Olympic swimming pools. And the melting is accelerating. In the worst case scenario, Antarctica's melt could push sea levels up 10 feet (3 meters) worldwide in a century or two, recurving heavily populated coastlines.

Parts of Antarctica are melting so rapidly it has become "ground zero of global climate change without a doubt," said Harvard geophysicist Jerry Mitrovica.

Here on the Antarctic peninsula, where the continent is warming the fastest because the land sticks out in the warmer ocean, 49 billion tons of ice (nearly 45 billion metric tons) are lost each year, according to NASA. The water warms from below, causing the ice to retreat on to land, and then the warmer air takes over. Temperatures rose 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit (3 degrees Celsius) in the last half century, much faster than Earth's average, said Ricardo Jana, a glaciologist for the Chilean

Antarctic Institute.

As chinstrap penguins waddled behind him, Peter Convey of the British Antarctic Survey reflected on changes he could see on Robert Island, a small-scale example and perhaps early warning signal of what's happening to the peninsula and rest of the continent as a whole.

"I was last here 10 years ago," Convey said during a rare sunny day on the island, with temperatures

percent of the Antarctic Peninsula is still covered with ice, entire valleys are now free of it, ice is thinner elsewhere and glaciers have retreated, Convey said.

Dressed in a big red parka and sky blue hat, plant biologist Angelica Casanova has to take her gloves off to collect samples, leaving her hands bluish purple from the cold. Casanova says she can't help but notice the changes since

meters) in 2014. Ominously, the split broke through a type of ice band that usually stops such cracks. If it keeps going, it could cause the breaking off of a giant iceberg somewhere between the size of Rhode Island and Delaware, about 1,700 to 2,500 square miles (4,600 to 6,400 square kilometers), said British Antarctic Survey scientist Paul Holland. And there's a small chance it could cause the entire Scotland-sized Lars-

nearly as much as it is melting to the west.

"Before Antarctica was much of a wild card," said University of Washington ice scientist Ian Joughin. "Now I would say it's less of a wild card and more scary than we thought before."

Over at NASA, ice scientist Eric Rignot said the melting "is going way faster than anyone had thought. It's kind of a red flag."

What's happening is simple physics. Warm water eats away at the ice from underneath. Then more ice is exposed to the water, and it too melts. Finally, the ice above the water collapses into the water and melts. Climate change has shifted the wind pattern around the continent, pushing warmer water farther north against and below the western ice sheet and the peninsula. The warm, more northerly water replaces the cooler water that had been there. It's only a couple degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the water that used to be there, but that makes a huge difference in melting, scientists said.

The world's fate hangs on the question of how fast the ice melts.

At its current rate, the rise of the world's oceans from Antarctica's ice melt would be barely noticeable, about one-third of a millimeter a year. The oceans are that vast.

But if all the West Antarctic ice sheet that's connected to water melts unstopably, as several experts predict, there will not be time to prepare. Scientists estimate it will take anywhere from 200 to 1,000 years to melt enough ice to raise seas by 10 feet, maybe only 100 years in a worst case scenario. □



In this Jan. 26, 2015 photo, pieces of thawing ice are scattered along the beachshore at Punta Hanna, Livingston Island, South Shetland Island archipelago, Antarctica. Associated Press

just above freezing. "And if you compare what I saw back then to now, the basic difference due to warming is that the permanent patches of snow and ice are smaller. They're still there behind me, but they're smaller than they were."

Robert Island hits all the senses: the stomach-turning smell of penguin poop; soft moss that invites the rare visitor to lie down, as if on a water bed; brown mud, akin to stepping in gooey chocolate. Patches of the moss, which alternates from fluorescent green to rust red, have grown large enough to be football fields. Though 97

she began coming to the island in 1995. Increasingly, plants are taking root in the earth and stone deposited by retreating glaciers, she says.

"It's interesting because the vegetation in some way responds positively. It grows more," she said, a few steps from a sleeping Weddell seal. "What is regrettable is that all the scientific information that we're seeing says there's been a lot of glacier retreat and that worries us." Just last month, scientists noticed in satellite images that a giant crack in an ice shelf on the peninsula called Larsen C had grown by about 12 miles (20 kilo-

en C ice shelf to collapse like its sister shelf, Larsen B, did in a dramatic way in 2002.

A few years back, scientists figured Antarctica as a whole was in balance, neither gaining nor losing ice. Experts worried more about Greenland; it was easier to get to and more noticeable, but once they got a better look at the bottom of the world, the focus of their fears shifted. Now scientists in two different studies use the words "irreversible" and "unstoppable" to talk about the melting in West Antarctica. Ice is gaining in East Antarctica, where the air and water are cooler, but not



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Leonard Nimoy, famous as Mr. Spock on 'Star Trek,' dies

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Leonard Nimoy, the actor known and loved by generations of "Star Trek" fans as the pointy-eared, purely logical science officer Mr. Spock, has died.

Nimoy died Friday of end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at his Los Angeles home, said his son, Adam Nimoy. He was 83.

Although Nimoy followed his 1966-69 "Star Trek" run with a notable career as both an actor and director, in the public's mind he would always be Spock. His half-human, half-Vulcan character was the calm counterpoint to William Shatner's often-emotional Captain Kirk on one of TV and film's most revered cult series.

"He affected the lives of many," Adam Nimoy said. "He was also a great guy and my best friend."

Asked if his father chafed at his fans' close identification of him with his character, Adam Nimoy said, "Not in the least. He loved Spock."

However, Leonard Nimoy displayed ambivalence to the role in the titles of his two autobiographies, "I Am Not Spock" (1975) and "I Am Spock" (1995).

After "Star Trek" ended, the actor immediately joined the hit adventure series "Mission Impossible" as Paris, the mission team's master of disguises.

From 1976 to 1982, he hosted the syndicated TV series "In Search of ...," which attempted to probe such mysteries as the legend of the Loch Ness Monster and the disappearance of aviator Amelia Earhart.

He played Israeli leader Golda Meir's husband op-

posite Ingrid Bergman in the TV drama "A Woman Called Golda" and Vincent van Gogh in "Vincent," a one-man stage show on the life of the troubled painter. He continued to work well into his 70s, playing gazillionaire genius William Bell in the Fox series "Fringe."

He also directed several films, including the hit comedy "Three Men and a Baby" and appeared in such plays as "A Streetcar Named Desire," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Fiddler on the Roof," "The King and I," "My Fair Lady" and "Equus." He also published books of poems, children's stories and his own photographs.

But he could never really escape the role that took him overnight from bit-part actor status to TV star, and in a 1995 interview he sought to analyze the popularity of Spock, the green-blooded space traveler who aspired to live a life based on pure logic.

People identified with Spock because they "recognize in themselves this wish that they could be logical and avoid the pain of anger and confrontation," Nimoy concluded.

"How many times have we come away from an argument wishing we had said and done something different?" he asked.

In the years immediately after "Star Trek" left television, Nimoy tried to shun the role, but he eventually came to embrace it, lampooning himself on such TV shows as "Futurama," "Duckman" and "The Simpsons" and in commercials.

He became Spock after "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry was impressed by his work in guest appearances on the TV



In this May 14, 2013 file photo, Leonard Nimoy arrives at the LA premiere of "Star Trek Into Darkness" at The Dolby Theater in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

shows "The Lieutenant" and "Dr. Kildare."

The space adventure set in the 23rd century had an unimpressive debut on NBC on Sept. 8, 1966, and it struggled during its three seasons to find an audience other than teenage boys. It seemed headed for oblivion after it was canceled in 1969, but its dedicated legion of fans, who called themselves Trekkies, kept its memory alive with conventions and fan clubs and constant demands that the cast be reassembled for a movie or another TV show.

Trekkies were particularly fond of Spock, often greeting one another with the Vulcan salute and the Vulcan motto, "Live Long and Prosper," both of which Nimoy was credited with bringing to the character. He pointed out, however, that the hand gesture was actually derived from one used by rabbis during Hebraic benedictions.

When the cast finally was

reassembled for "Star Trek — The Motion Picture," in 1979, the film was a huge hit and five sequels followed. Nimoy appeared in all of them and directed two. He also guest starred as an older version of himself in some of the episodes of the show's spinoff TV series, "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

"Of course the role changed my career— or rather, gave me one," he once said. "It made me wealthy by most standards and opened up vast opportunities. It also affected me personally, socially, psychologically, emotionally. ... What started out as a welcome job to a hungry actor has become a constant and ongoing influence in my thinking and lifestyle."

In 2009, he was back in a new big-screen version of "Star Trek," this time playing an older Spock who meets his younger self, played by Zachary Quinto. Critic Roger Ebert called the older

Spock "the most human character in the film."

Among those seeing the film was President Barack Obama, whose even manner was often likened to Spock's.

"Everybody was saying I was Spock, so I figured I should check it out," Obama said at the time.

Upon the movie's debut, Nimoy told The Associated Press that in his late 70s he was probably closer than ever to being as comfortable with himself as the logical Spock always appeared to be.

"I know where I'm going, and I know where I've been," he said.

He reprised the role in the 2013 sequel "Star Trek Into Darkness."

Born in Boston to Jewish immigrants from Russia, Nimoy was raised in an Italian section of the city where, although he counted many Italian-Americans as his friends, he said he also felt the sting of anti-Semitism growing up. □



From 'Pulp Fiction' to Oscar meme, Travolta's highs and lows

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Since strutting onto the big screen in "Saturday Night Fever," John Travolta has had a career marked by dramatic ups and downs, from comeback king to Internet meme. Travolta's latest step back into the spotlight at Sunday's Academy Awards was uneasy. He's been widely pilloried for his touching of Idina Menzel's face while he cooed "You, you my darling, my beautiful, my wickedly talented Idina Menzel."

"Apparently I played with her chin too much," Travolta told Jimmy Kimmel about his reunion with Menzel. At the conclusion of the Oscars, host Neil Patrick Harris pre-

dicted Travolta (booked to redeem himself for his infamous mangling of Menzel's name the year before) will be back at next year's show to apologize again for "all the face touching."

Images of Travolta kissing Scarlett Johansson in front of photographers on the red carpet also went viral, turning the star into a social media punch line. Johansson, however, defended Travolta in a statement to The Associated Press on Thursday, saying, "There is nothing at all strange, creepy or inappropriate about John Travolta" and called the photo "an unfortunate still-frame from a live-action encounter that was very sweet and totally welcome."

The Oscar incidents come at a time when Travolta, 61, is prepping a handful of projects and ahead of the release of an explosive documentary on Scientology that focuses considerably on Travolta's relationship with the organization. Should that upcoming film, "Going Clear," from the Oscar-winning documentarian Alex Gibney, go on to be Oscar nominated, as many expect it to, it could again make Travolta a part of next year's Academy Awards, albeit in a much different way.

But Travolta has long navigated the ebb and flow of celebrity, relying on his boyish charisma and a few good dance moves for numerous revivals. Here's a look at his highs and lows:

HIGH: Already known to TV viewers of "Welcome Back Kotter," Travolta emphatically debuted as a leading man in the 1977 disco sensation "Saturday Night Fever." He pronounced: "This is dancing, not that Fred Astaire thing. I just move and strut, and THAT'S DANCING!" He followed it up as Danny Zuko in 1978's "Grease," forever immortalizing his high voice and pomade-slicked hair. **LOW:** The 1980s weren't nearly as good to Travolta as the '70s. He worked consistently, but in a string of flops like "Perfect," in which he played a Rolling Stone reporter, and "Two of a

Kind," which reteamed him with "Grease" co-star Olivia Newton-John. Many of the films he turned down (like "American Gigolo") were more successful than the films he chose to make.

HIGH: Though the "Look Who's Talking" comedies restored Travolta's popularity, his resurrection was undoubtedly due to one man: Quentin Tarantino. The director specifically sought out Travolta, even though Daniel Day-Lewis, fresh off his Oscar win for "My Left Foot," reportedly wanted the part. Travolta's performance as Vincent Vega earned him his second Oscar nomination and brought on a rush of work, including the acclaimed Elmore Leonard adaptation "Get Shorty."

LOW: The "Pulp Fiction" rejuvenation did not last long, though Travolta's track record ("Michael," "Face/Off," "Primary Colors," "A Civil Action") was better in the late 1990s than it was in the '80s. He even had a notable cameo in Terrence Malick's "The Thin Red Line." But in 2000, he starred in perhaps the biggest bomb of his career: "Battlefield Earth." The futuristic science-fiction film was partly based on a novel by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard. It was made by independent production company Franchise Pictures (which was later convicted for inflating the budget to "Battlefield Earth" and went bankrupt), with Travolta putting up money of his own. It's frequently ranked among the worst movies of the decade.

HIGH: Travolta perhaps never recovered after "Battlefield Earth," but he continued to co-star in big-budget releases that received mediocre reviews and did modest box office: "Swordfish," "The Punisher," "The Taking of Pelham 123." More recently, Travolta has lined up several films: "The Forger" (a crime drama due out in April), "Criminal Activities" (a mob thriller directed by Jackie Earle Haley) and "In a Valley of Violence" (a Western co-starring Ethan Hawke). □

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Knowledge Isn't Power



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Regular readers know that I sometimes mock "very serious people" - politicians and pundits who solemnly repeat conventional wisdom that sounds tough-minded and realistic. The trouble is that sounding serious and being serious are by no means the same thing, and some of those seemingly tough-minded positions are actually ways to dodge the truly hard issues.

The prime example of recent years was, of course, Bowles-Simpsonism - the diversion of elite discourse away from the ongoing tragedy of high unemployment and into the supposedly crucial issue of how, exactly, we will pay for social insurance programs a couple of decades from now. That particular obsession, I'm happy to say, seems to be on the wane. But my sense is that there's a new form of issue-dodging packaged as seriousness on the rise. This time, the evasion involves trying to divert our national discourse about inequality into a discussion of alleged problems with education.

And the reason this is an evasion is that whatever serious people may want to believe, soaring inequality isn't about education; it's about power.

Just to be clear: I'm in favor of better education. Education is a friend of mine. And it should be available and affordable for all. But what I keep seeing is people insisting that educational failings are at the root of still-weak job creation, stagnating wages and rising inequality. This sounds serious and thoughtful. But it's actually a view very much at odds with the evidence, not to mention a way to hide from the real, unavoidably partisan debate.

The education-centric story of our problems runs like this: We live in a period of unprecedented technological change, and too many American workers lack the skills to cope with that change. This "skills gap" is holding back growth, because businesses can't find the workers they need. It also feeds inequality, as wages soar for workers with the right skills but stagnate or decline for the less educated. So what we need is more and better education.

My guess is that this sounds familiar - it's what you hear from the talking heads on Sunday morning TV, in opinion articles from business leaders

like Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase, in "framing papers" from the Brookings Institution's centrist Hamilton Project. It's repeated so widely that many people probably assume it's unquestionably true. But it isn't. For one thing, is the pace of technological change really that fast? "We wanted flying cars, instead we got 140 characters," the venture capitalist Peter Thiel has snarked. Productivity growth, which surged briefly after 1995, seems to have slowed sharply.

Furthermore, there's no evidence that a skills gap is holding back employment. After all, if businesses were desperate for workers with certain skills, they would presumably be offering premium wages to attract such workers. So where are these fortunate professions? You can find some examples here and there. Interestingly, some of the biggest recent wage gains are for skilled manual labor - sewing machine operators, boiler-makers - as some manufacturing production moves back to America. But the notion that highly skilled workers are generally in demand is just false.

Finally, while the education/inequality story may once have seemed plausible, it hasn't tracked reality for a long time. "The wages of the highest-skilled and highest-paid individuals have continued to increase steadily," the Hamilton Project says. Actually, the inflation-adjusted earnings of highly educated Americans have gone nowhere since the late 1990s.

So what is really going on? Corporate profits have soared as a share of national income, but there is no sign of a rise in the rate of return on investment. How is that possible? Well, it's what you would expect if rising profits reflect monopoly power rather than returns to capital.

As for wages and salaries, never mind college degrees - all the big gains are going to a tiny group of individuals holding strategic positions in corporate suites or astride the crossroads of finance. Rising inequality isn't about who has the knowledge; it's about who has the power.

Now, there's a lot we could do to redress this inequality of power. We could levy higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy, and invest the proceeds in programs that help working families. We could raise the minimum wage and make it easier for workers to organize. It's not hard to imagine a truly serious effort to make America less unequal.

But given the determination of one major party to move policy in exactly the opposite direction, advocating such an effort makes you sound partisan. Hence the desire to see the whole thing as an education problem instead. But we should recognize that popular evasion for what it is: a deeply unserious fantasy. □



Tell Me: Who Loves America?



CHARLES M. BLOW
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We have arrived at the point where the utter tedium and desperation of personal attacks against President Barack Obama about his life story and his loyalty are no longer news. The histrionics have shed their ability to shock. Most right-minded Americans - ethically speaking, not ideologically speaking - have moved on. But occasionally the insults prove to be accidentally instructive.

Take for instance what Rudy Giuliani ("America's mayor") said about the president last week at a dinner for Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin (a contender for America's president). At the dinner - attended, according to Politico, by "about 60 right-leaning business executives and conservative media types" - Giuliani said, "I do not believe, and I know this is a horrible thing to say, but I do not believe that the president loves America." He continued, "He doesn't love you. And he doesn't love me. He wasn't brought up the way you were brought up and I was brought up through love of this country."

Yes, Mr. Mayor, it was a horrible thing to say, which is why you backpedaled. On Fox, Giuliani gave a meandering, mealy-mouthed defense of the vile statement, claiming, preposterously, that "I'm not questioning his patriotism," explaining that he hears Obama

"criticize America much more often than other American presidents" and questioning the president's faith in American exceptionalism.

Ah, American exceptionalism again.

This is in part about a fundamental difference in views. It is a definitional difference, not about the meaning of love but about the meaning of America and its place in the world. Does exceptionalism - if one accepts the premise - bestow exemption from critique? Is uniqueness perfection? Does our difference require some sort of arresting of development?

As the Pew Research Center pointed out in July, "the view that the U.S. is exceptional - standing above all other countries in the world - has declined 10 points since 2011." At that time last year, 58 percent of Americans believed the United States is "one of the greatest countries in the world, along with others," while only 28 percent believed it "stands above all other countries in the world." (Whether this is truly a measure of exceptionalism or diminished standing isn't completely clear to me.)

And what does it mean to love the country? We're not talking about touristic love of the place - not the mountains and the valleys, the cities and the suburbs, the mighty rivers and the shores that kiss the oceans - but a love of the idea of America. In a way, this is an ideological battle. Conservatism is rooted in preservation; progressivism advances alteration. These are different love languages. These languages turn on your view of change itself: When you think of America, do you see a country struggling to be maintained or one striving to be made better?

The president not only ran for office on the idea of change, but his presence - in both visage and values - is the manifestation of change. He not only represents a very real af-

front to the status quo and traditional power but is also not shy about pointing out where America can improve.

Our allegiance needn't - mustn't - be blind to be true. We must acknowledge our warts if we are to proclaim our beauty. Our aggrandizement must be grounded. We must be willing to laud America where it has soared and rebuke it where it has faltered.

America is a great country in many ways. But it is far from perfect.

America is a living idea. It isn't only the tenets of its founding, but also the terms of its future. Every day, we make America. Seeking to preserve and enshrine one vision of this country from one period of its past robs it of what makes it magical: its infinite possibility for adjustment.

"All men are created equal" is an exquisite idea, but one that wasn't fully embraced when the words were written. We, the American people, have pushed this country to consider that clause in the broadest possible interpretation for hundreds of years.

We are engaged in a constant struggle to force America to "be true to what you said on paper," as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. put it.

The concept of forming "a more perfect union" has embedded in it the idea of ambition but not perfection itself. There is room for betterment. America is not static. America is striving.

And sometimes, America requires critique. Jingoism is an avoidance of realism.

You can simultaneously love and be disappointed in the object of your love, wanting it to be better than it is. In fact, that is a measure of love. Honest critique is a pillar of patriotism.

As James Baldwin put it, "I love America more than any other country in the world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually." □

As Tastes Change, Big Food Makers Try Hipster Guises



Diners eat at U.S. Taco Co., which is owned by Taco Bell, in Huntington Beach, Calif. As people increasingly reach for foods that stray from the norm and seem less processed, some companies are testing whether it would pay to tuck away their famous logos in favor of more hipster guises. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer
HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP) — At a taco shop in Southern California, milk-

shakes are served in mason jars and a chalkboard menu lists "The 1%er" made with lobster meat.

The logo is a pink skull and instead of buzzers, customers are given license plates so servers can identify them when bringing out orders.

Nowhere is it evident that the U.S. Taco Co. is an outpost of a chain better known for cheesy gut bombs: Taco Bell.

Major companies are testing whether it would pay to tuck away their world famous logos in favor of more hipster guises: PepsiCo, for instance, introduced a craft soda called Caleb's last year and McDonald's opened a cafe that lists lentils and eggplant on its menu. The stealth efforts reflect the pressures on the country's biggest food makers, which are contending with the surging popularity of smaller brands that position themselves as decidedly less corporate.

For big food companies, the low-key efforts are a way feel out changing tastes and cozy up to new customers, particularly those in their 20s and 30s.

Among that age group, marketing experts say there's a growing preference for qualities like "real" and "authentic." Additionally, millennials aren't as impressed by big brands

As such, Allen Adamson of Landor Associates, a brand consulting firm, said companies should keep the images for their latest efforts smaller and more niche: "You don't want to



This photo shows Caleb's Kola, a cane sugar-sweetened cola owned by PepsiCo, at U.S. Taco Co., which is owned by Taco Bell, in Huntington Beach, Calif.

when it comes to food, and instead take pride in discovering and sharing new places and products with friends on social media networks.

scream from the mountain top that you're Pepsi." Unlike Pepsi cola — which has suffered sales declines since 1998, according to Beverage Digest — Pep-

siCo's Caleb's Kola comes in a glass bottle and is sweetened with cane sugar instead of high-fructose corn syrup.

There are no signs the drink is from the maker of Mountain Dew and Gatorade, and the bottles bear the words "Honor In Craft."

Nick Hammit, who heads Caleb's Kola at PepsiCo, said Caleb's was the creation of a group of "Kola Nuts" at the company who were passionate about making a cola that "takes pride in every little aspect." McDonald's also decided not to use its name recognition when it opened The Corner late last year.

The restaurant in Australia has a minimalist white exterior and serves dishes like Moroccan roast chicken, chipotle pulled pork and lentil and eggplant salad. The only sign it's owned by McDonald's is the "McCafe" in small print at the bottom of the restaurant logo. McDonald's spokeswoman Becca Hary said in an email the location is a "learning lab" for testing

sales struggles, with global sales down 1 percent last year at established locations as customer visits declined in regions around the world.

For its part, Taco Bell said in an emailed statement that U.S. Taco's opening was the result of a "segmentation study" that found some people just don't want to eat at traditional fast-food chains.

So instead of trying to win them over with Taco Bell, a team known as "intrapreneurs" at the company came up with an entirely separate concept, which charges about \$3 to \$4 per taco.

The shop in Huntington Beach, California caught the attention of Christina Kaoh, a 30-year-old research coordinator who was in the area paddle boarding with friends.

"I figured it's going to be a hip version of tacos," Kaoh said.

She only learned it was owned by Taco Bell after reading an article that mentioned the link in Mother Jones. Kaoh said she wouldn't go back since she tries to support independent establishments, and didn't particularly enjoy the food.

The ownership of smaller brands by major corporations isn't a deal breaker, of course. In the beer industry, Anheuser-Busch In-Bev in 2006 created Shock Top. Harry Schuhmacher, editor of Beer Business Daily, said most people probably don't realize it's owned by the maker of Bud Light. Even if they did, he said it wouldn't matter now that Shock Top is established enough to have its own following.

In other cases, companies acquire smaller, fast-growing rivals to tap into trends. But acquisitions can be costly and come with risks, particularly at a time when food trends seem to be changing at an accelerating pace. By developing a brand in house, companies can test the waters without making as much of a financial commitment. If they're lucky, it takes off and becomes a hit. □

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

"new and different food and beverages never before seen in our restaurants."

The Corner comes as McDonald's suffers ongoing